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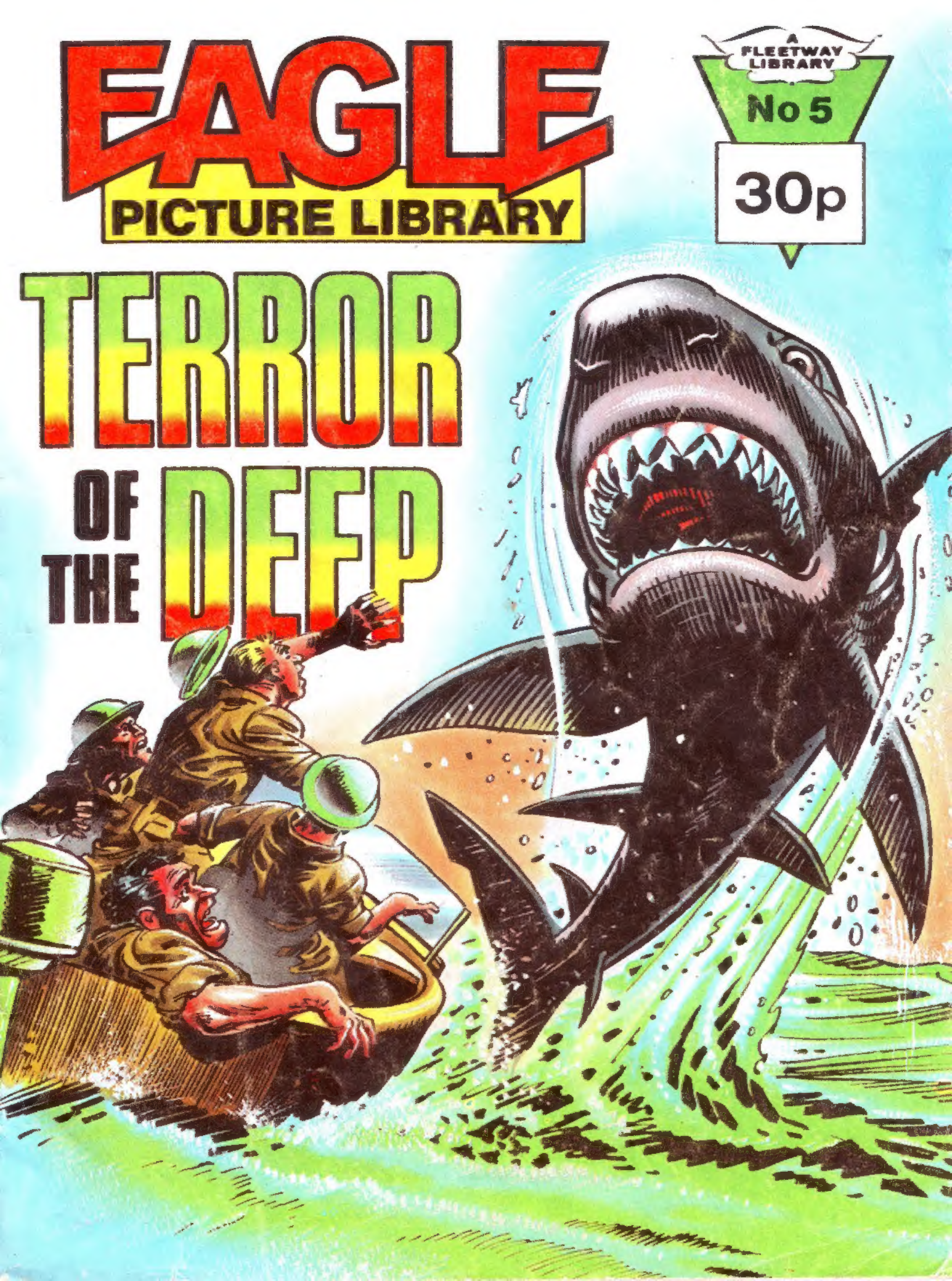
TERROR OF THE DEEP



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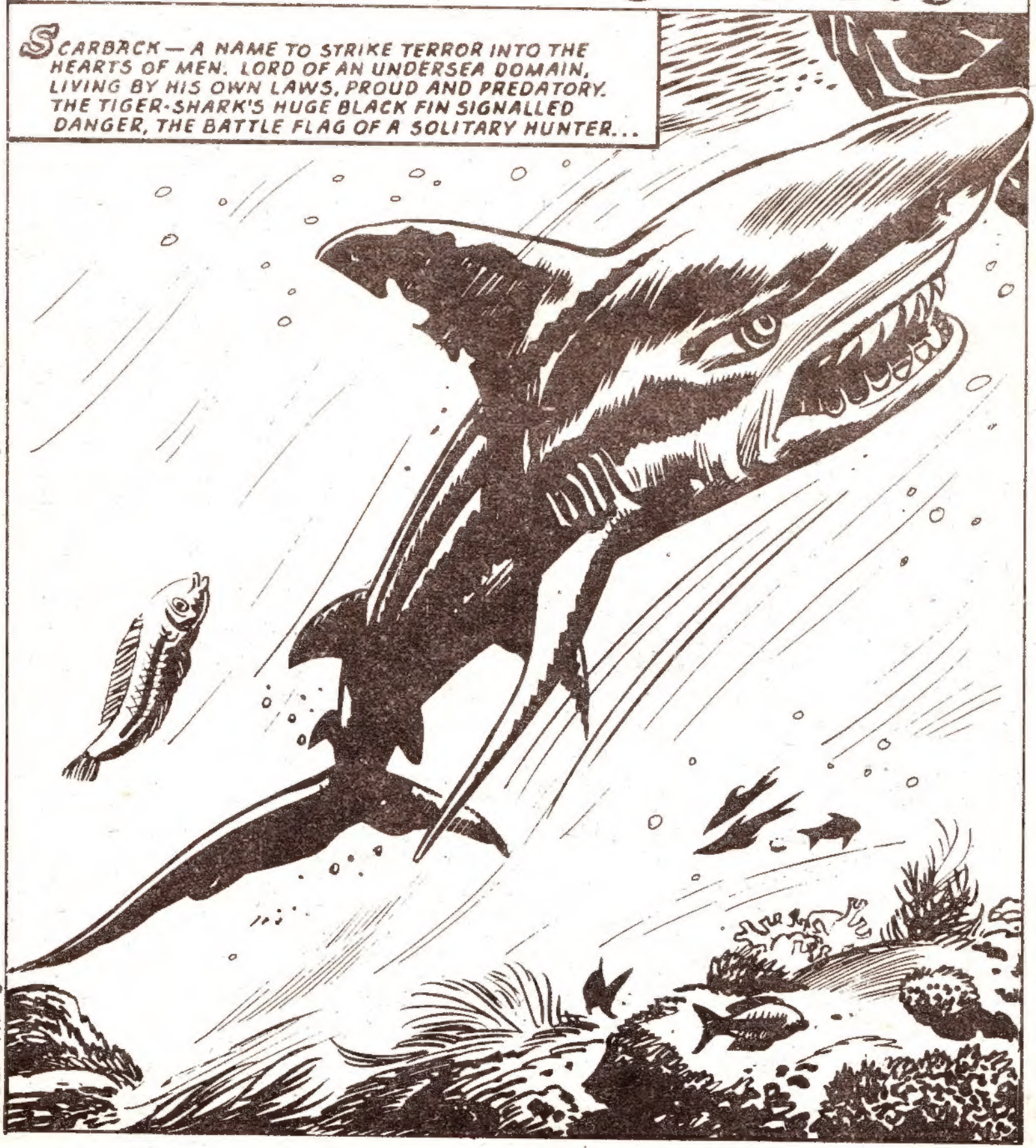
TERROR OF THE DEEP

SCARBACK — A NAME TO STRIKE TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN. LORD OF AN UNDERSEA DOMAIN, LIVING BY HIS OWN LAWS, PROUD AND PREDATORY. THE TIGER-SHARK'S HUGE BLACK FIN SIGNALLED DANGER, THE BATTLE FLAG OF A SOLITARY HUNTER...



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PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

BUT HE WAS ALSO HUNTED. ABOARD THE LAUNCH, CATARACT, TOD MASSEY SPOKE TO HIS UNCLE, LOUIS BERNARD...

NO SIGN OF SCARBACK YET, UNCLE! D'YOU REALLY THINK WE'LL GET HIM THIS TIME?

WHO KNOWS? IT WILL NOT BE EASY. BUT IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE SIGHT HIM SOON—OUR WEALTHY BACKER IS GROWING IMPATIENT!

ARTHUR P. HELMSTEINER WAS IMPATIENT! A WEALTHY AMERICAN, HE WAS USED TO GETTING HIS OWN WAY...

SEE HERE, BERNARD, TIME COSTS MONEY! TWO DARNED WEEKS AND NO SIGN OF THIS CREATURE! YOU SURE HE'S IN THESE PARTS?

WITH SCARBACK NO ONE CAN BE SURE—HE IS AN ELUSIVE OPPONENT. I THINK HE IS HERE...THAT IS ALL I CAN SAY.

I WANT HIM REAL BAD, BERNARD—AND I WANT HIM ALIVE! THAT DEVIL-FISH HAS BEEN CAUSING SO MUCH DAMAGE TO FISHING BOATS AROUND THESE PARTS THAT THE AUTHORITIES WANT HIM KILLED. AND REMEMBER, I'LL PAY YOU WELL FOR BRINGING HIM IN.

CAPTURING HIM WILL ALMOST BE REWARD ENOUGH, M'SIEUR. THERE IS A SCORE TO SETTLE BETWEEN US.

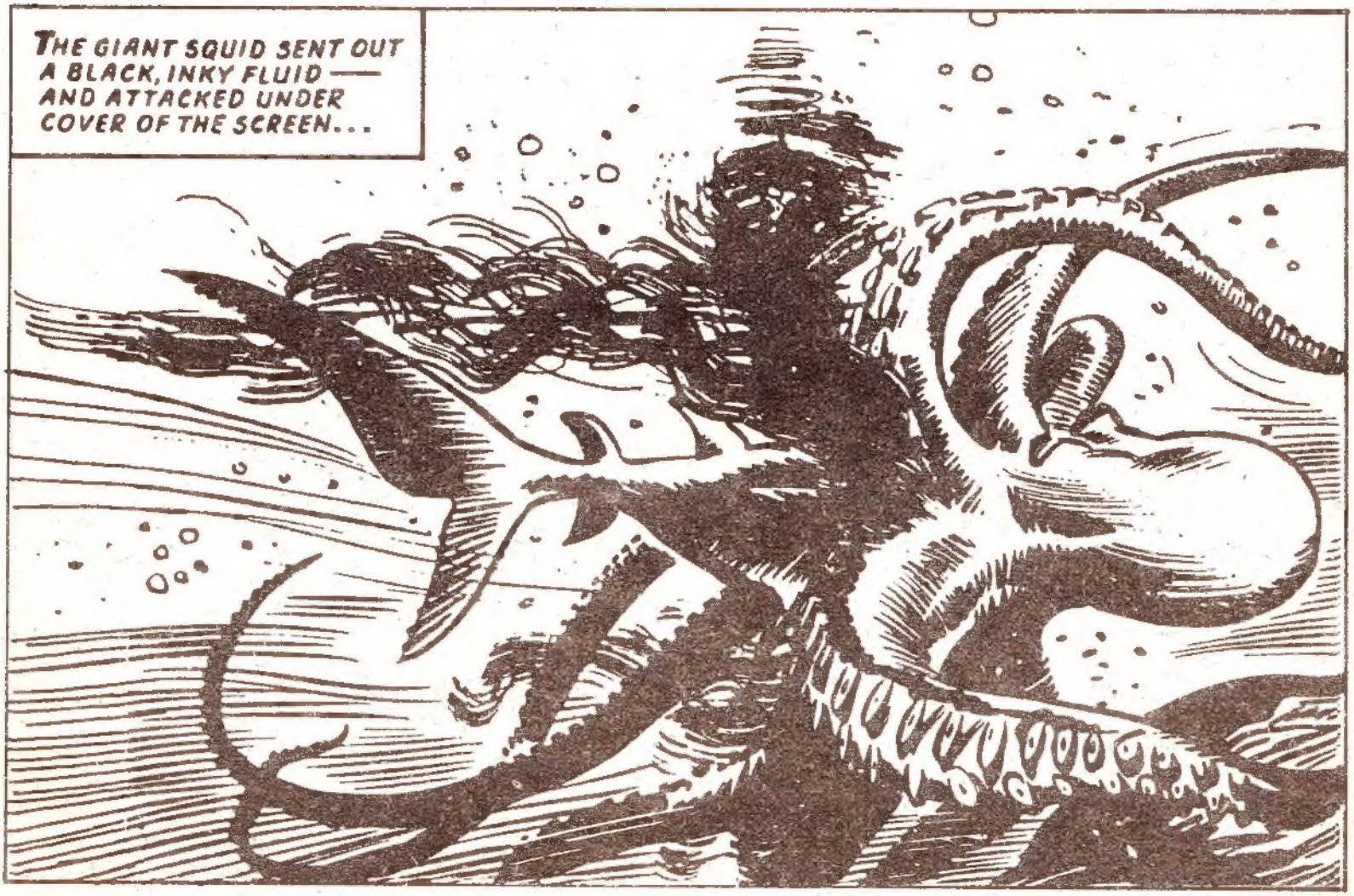
MANY TIMES IN THE PAST THE SEA-HUNTER HAD CLASHED WITH SCARBACK—IT HAD BECOME A PERSONAL DUEL...

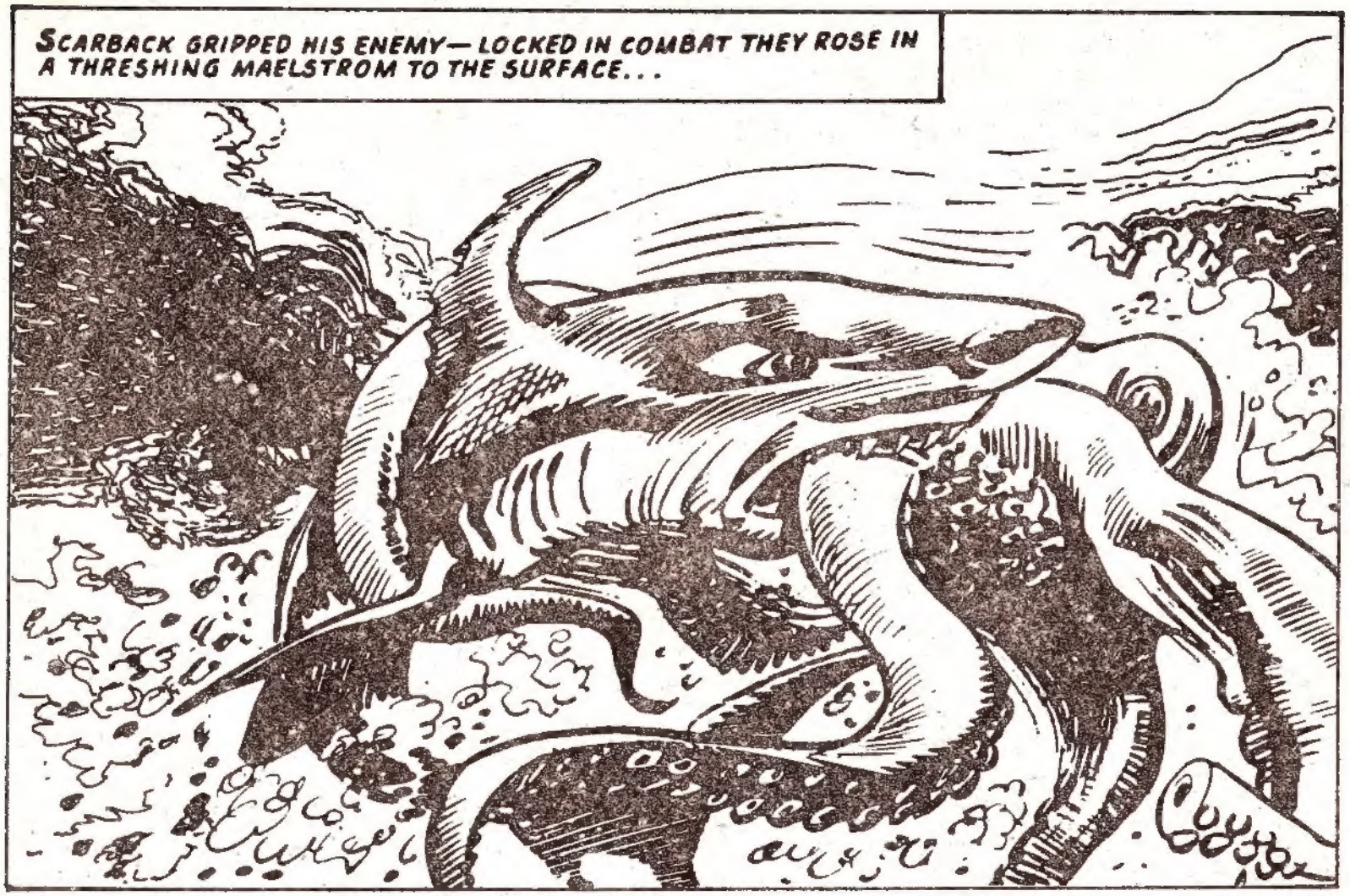
THE FIERCEST ANIMAL IN THE WORLD—IN MY PRIVATE AQUARIUM! THAT'LL BE SOMETHING, UH?

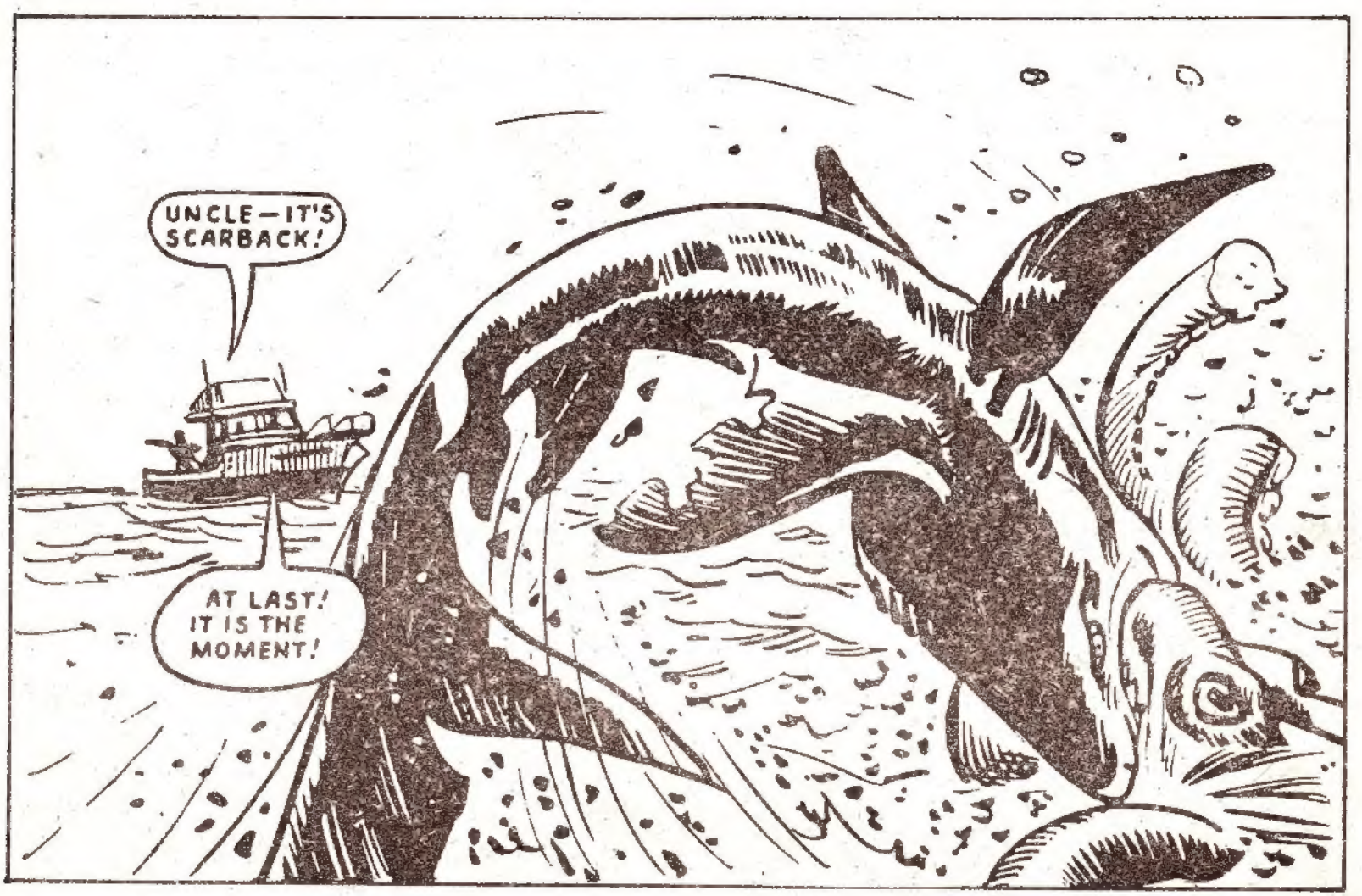
IT'S A PITY, THOUGH, THAT I CANNOT CATCH HIM WITH NORMAL ROD AND LINE—BUT HE IS TOO WARY, TOO EXPERIENCED, TO SWALLOW ANOTHER HOOK. SO I MUST USE OTHER MEANS.

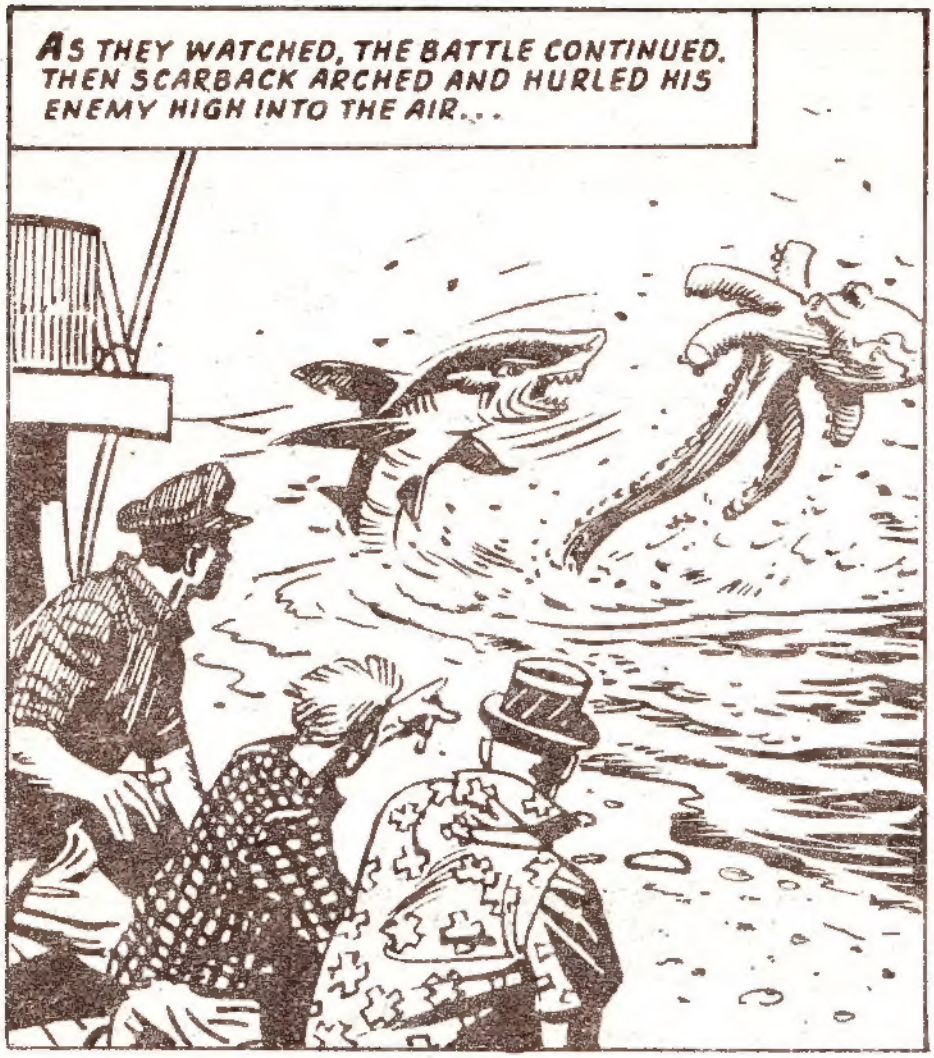
I HAVE A FEELING HE IS NEARBY...

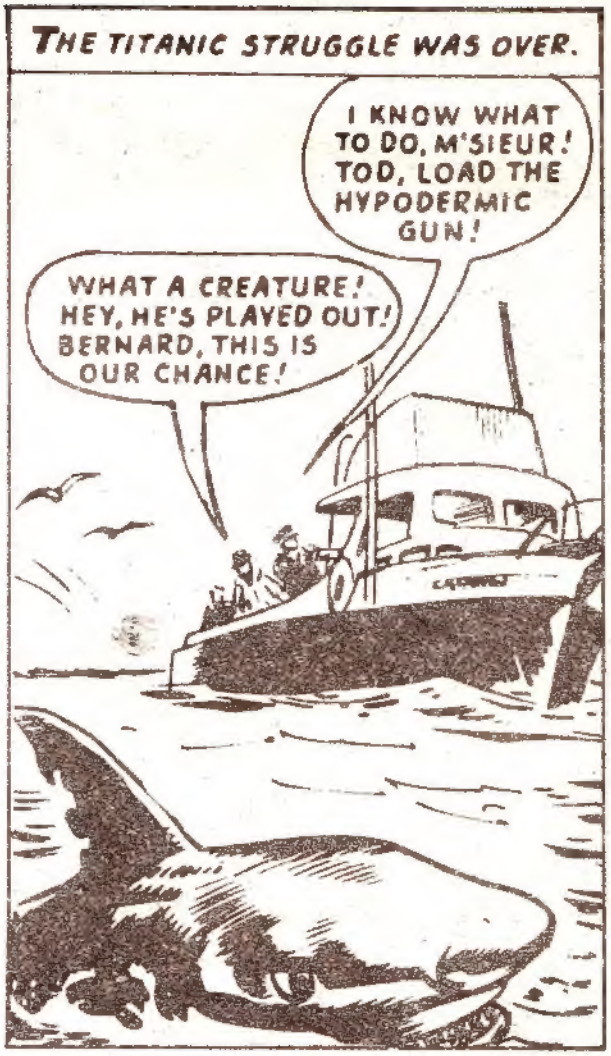
MEANWHILE, FAR BELOW, IN THE SHADOWY HEART OF THE SEA, SCARBACK WAS FACING ANOTHER CHALLENGE— TO HIS TITLE OF RULER...


THE GIANT SQUID SENT OUT A BLACK, INKY FLUID — AND ATTACKED UNDER COVER OF THE SCREEN...


SCARBACK GRIPPED HIS ENEMY— LOCKED IN COMBAT THEY ROSE IN A THRESHING MAELSTROM TO THE SURFACE...

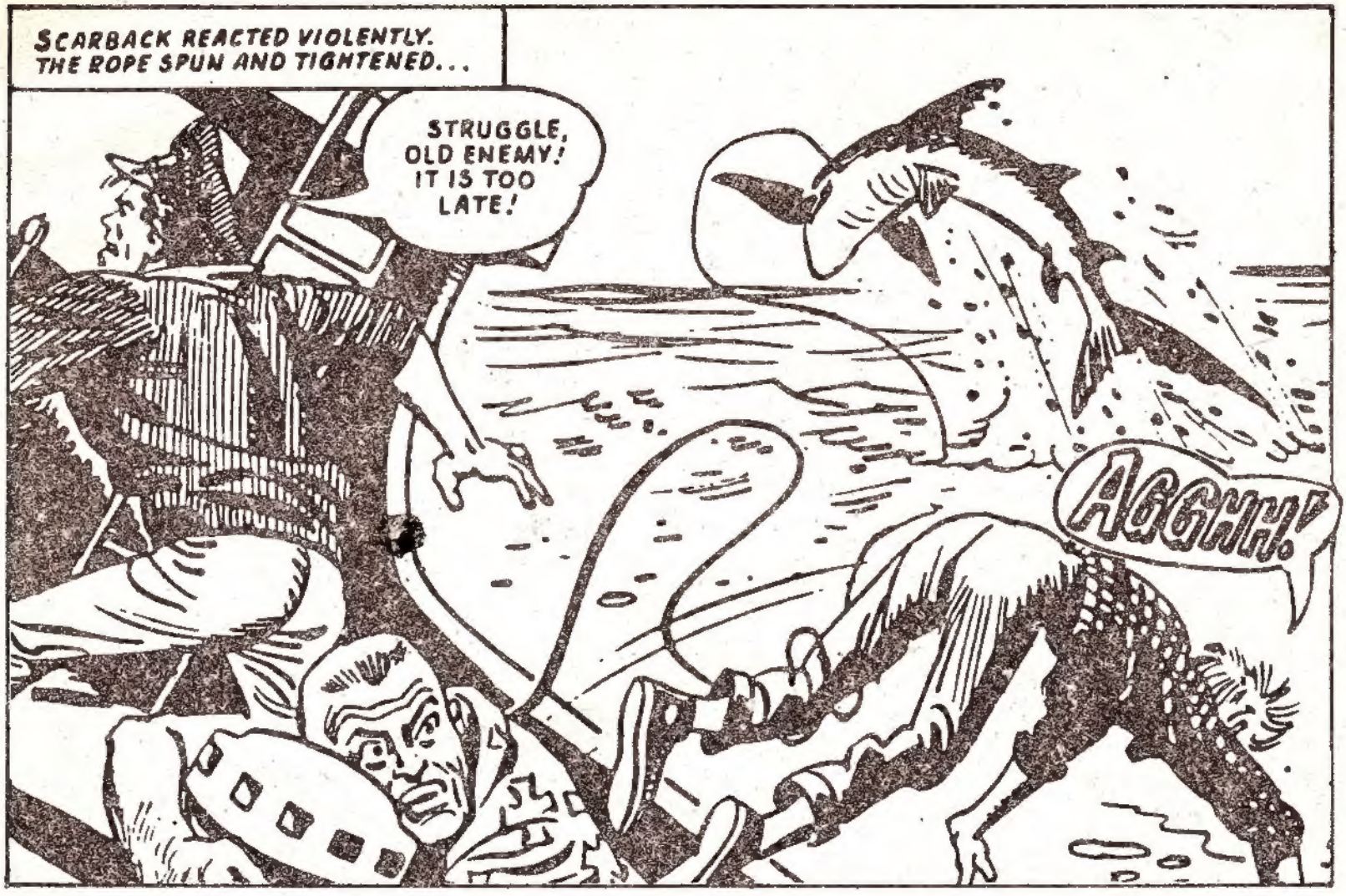

UNCLE—IT'S SCARBACK!
AT LAST! IT IS THE MOMENT!

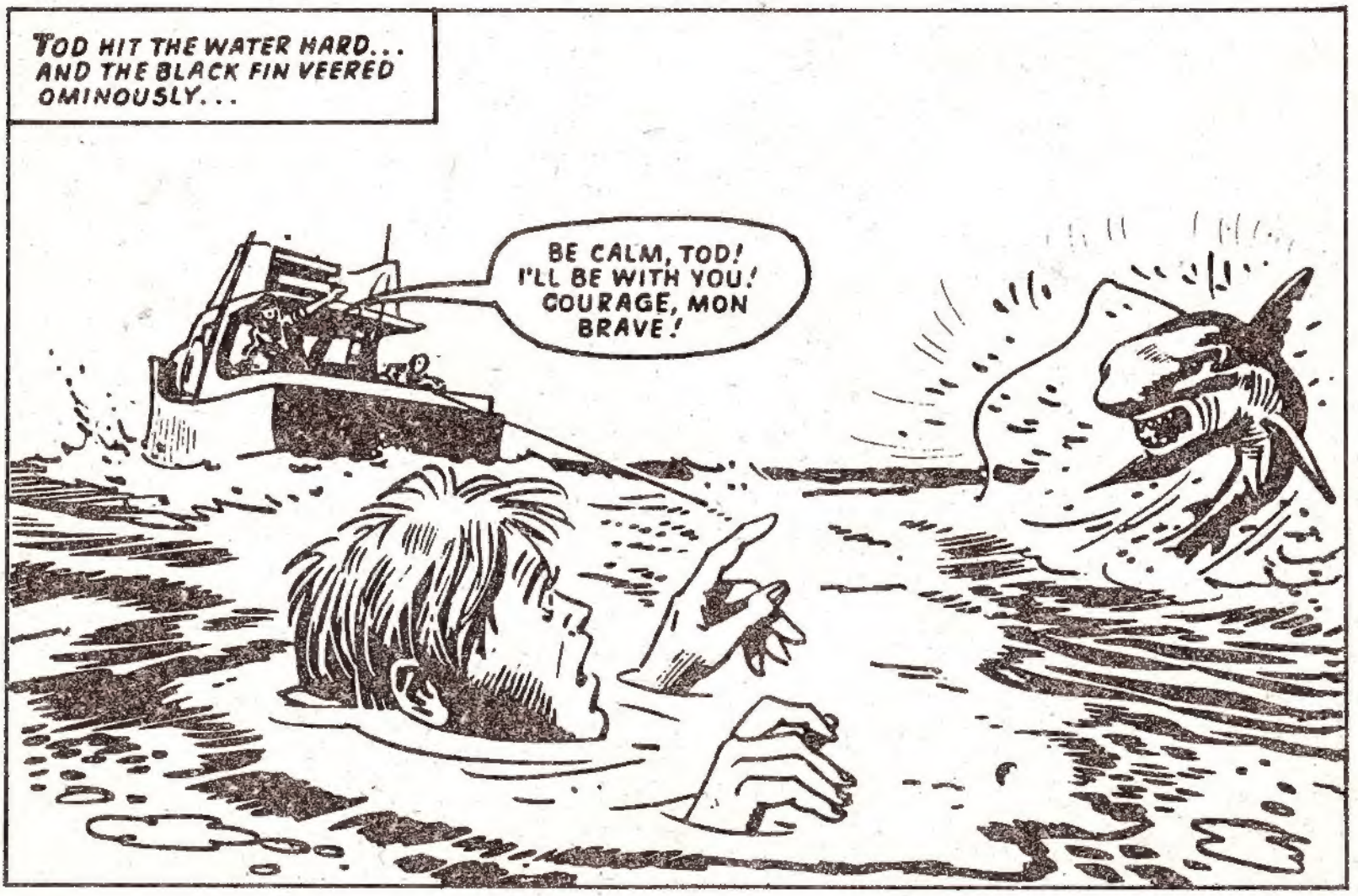

AS THEY WATCHED, THE BATTLE CONTINUED. THEN SCARBACK ARCHED AND HURLED HIS ENEMY HIGH INTO THE AIR...


THE TITANIC STRUGGLE WAS OVER.
I KNOW WHAT TO DO, M'SIEUR! TOD, LOAD THE HYPODERMIC GUN!
WHAT A CREATURE! HEY, HE'S PLAYED OUT! BERNARD, THIS IS OUR CHANCE!

LOUIS BERNARD'S HEART HAMMERED AS HE SIGHTED THE SHARK...
ONE SHOT—THAT IS ALL! SCARBACK WILL NOT ALLOW ANOTHER!

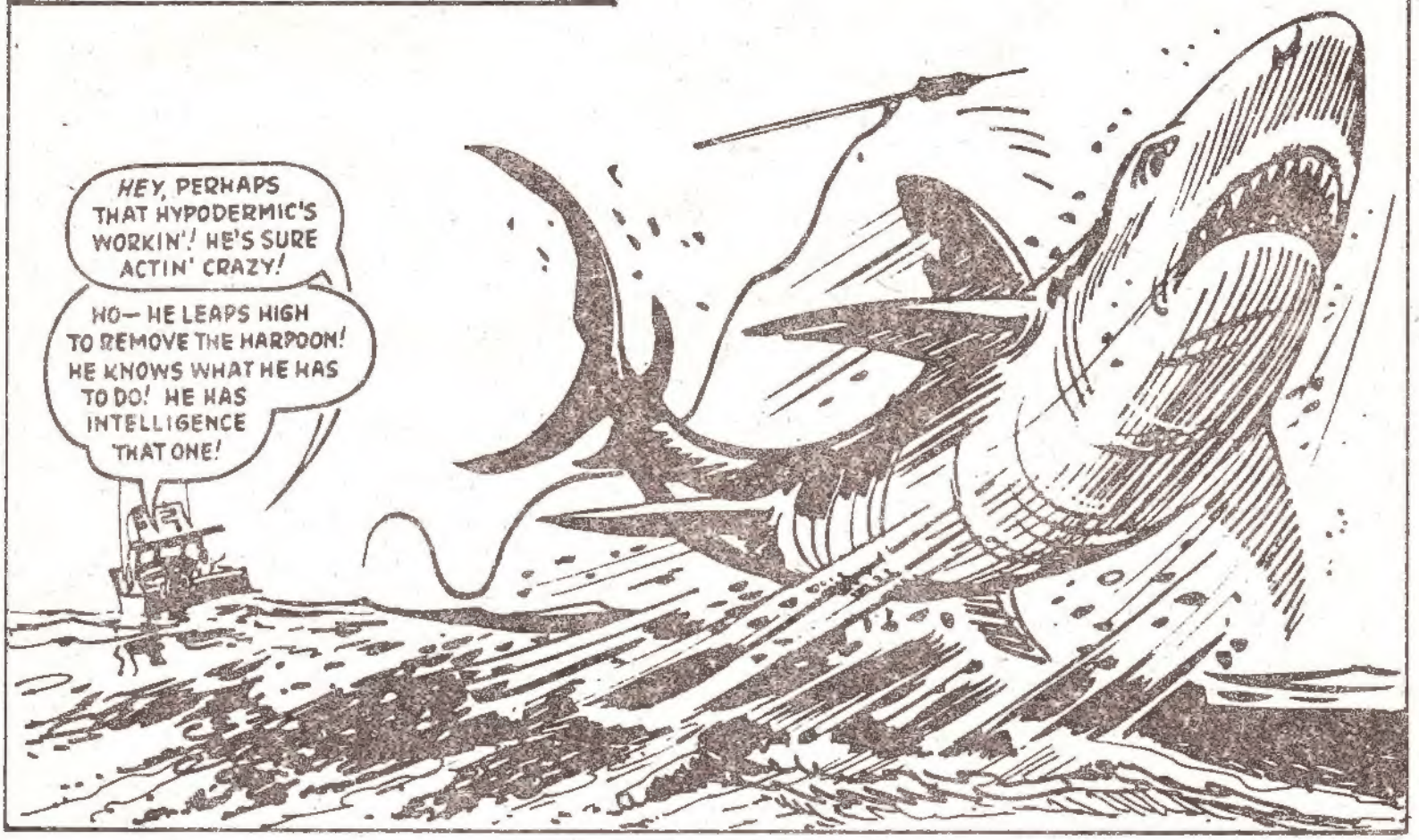
THE LOADED SPEAR CURVED IN A GLEAMING ARC— AND LANDED ON THE BLACK BODY...
YOU GOT HIM— A GREAT SHOT!


SCARBACK REACTED VIOLENTLY. THE ROPE SPUN AND TIGHTENED...
STRUGGLE, OLD ENEMY! IT IS TOO LATE!
AGGHH!


TOD HIT THE WATER HARD... AND THE BLACK FIN VEERED OMINOUSLY...
BE CALM, TOD! I'LL BE WITH YOU! COURAGE, MON BRAVE!

I'LL CUT THE ROPE! IT IS ONLY HOLDING SCARBACK TO US!
LET HIM GO NOW? WHEN WE'VE GOT HIM HOG-TIED? THAT'S CRAZY TALK, BERNARD!
IT WAS A MOMENT FOR ACTION, NOT DISCUSSION . . .
GET BACK!
YOU FOOL! NOW WE'LL LOSE HIM!
THE ROPE PARTED UNDER THE SLASHING KNIFE. SCARBACK FELT THE TENSION EASE AND ROSE IN A TRIUMPHANT ARCH . . .
YOU FEEL GOOD, UH? LOOK, HE CAN STILL HAVE A BITE AT THE KID!
NOT SCARBACK! FREEDOM MEANS MORE TO HIM THAN REVENGE!

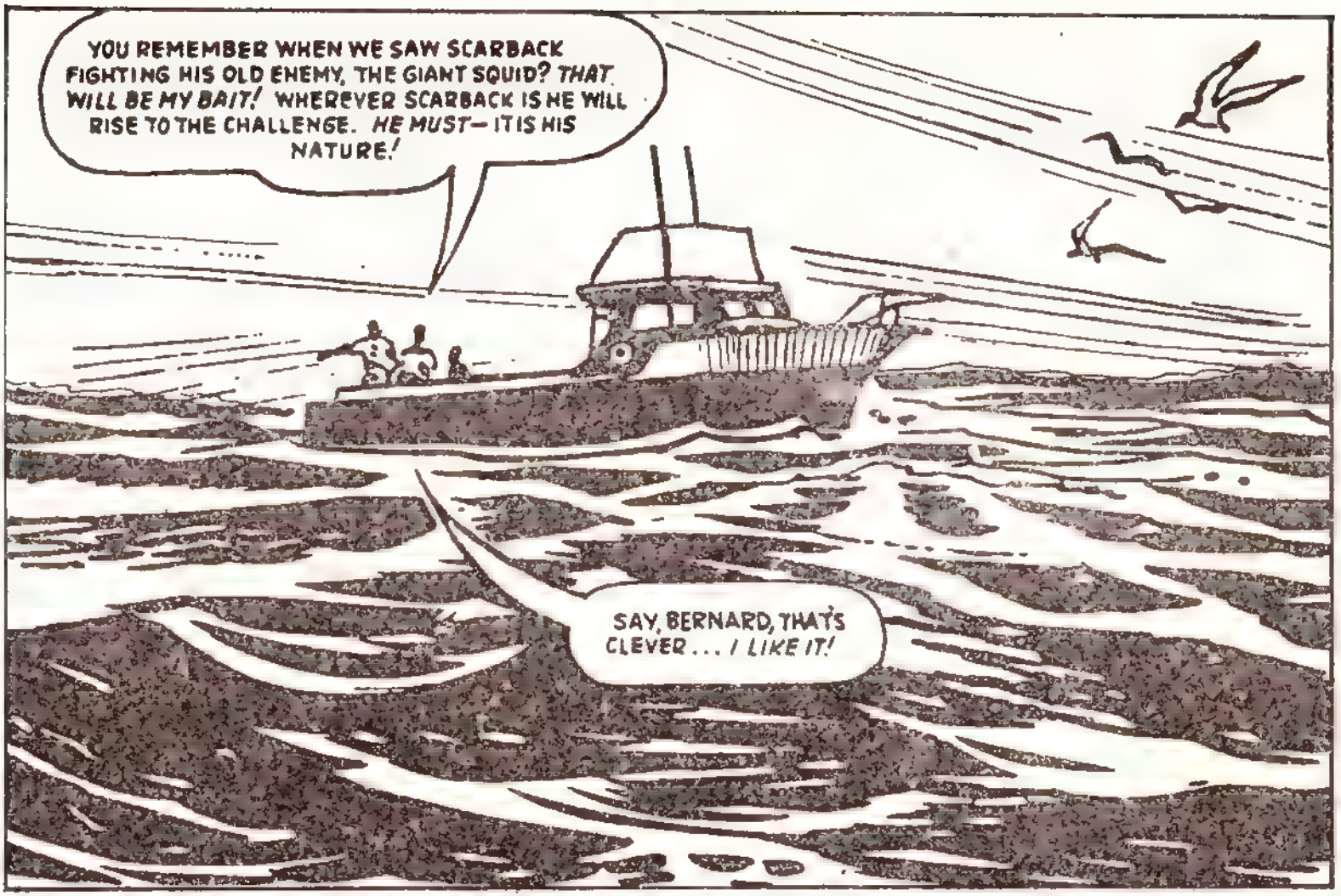
TOD WAS HAULED ABOARD AS THE SHARK ROSE IN ANOTHER SPECTACULAR LEAP . . .


HEY, PERHAPS THAT HYPODERMIC'S WORKIN'! HE'S SURE ACTIN' CRAZY!
NO— HE LEAPS HIGH TO REMOVE THE HARPOON! HE KNOWS WHAT HE HAS TO DO! HE HAS INTELLIGENCE THAT ONE!

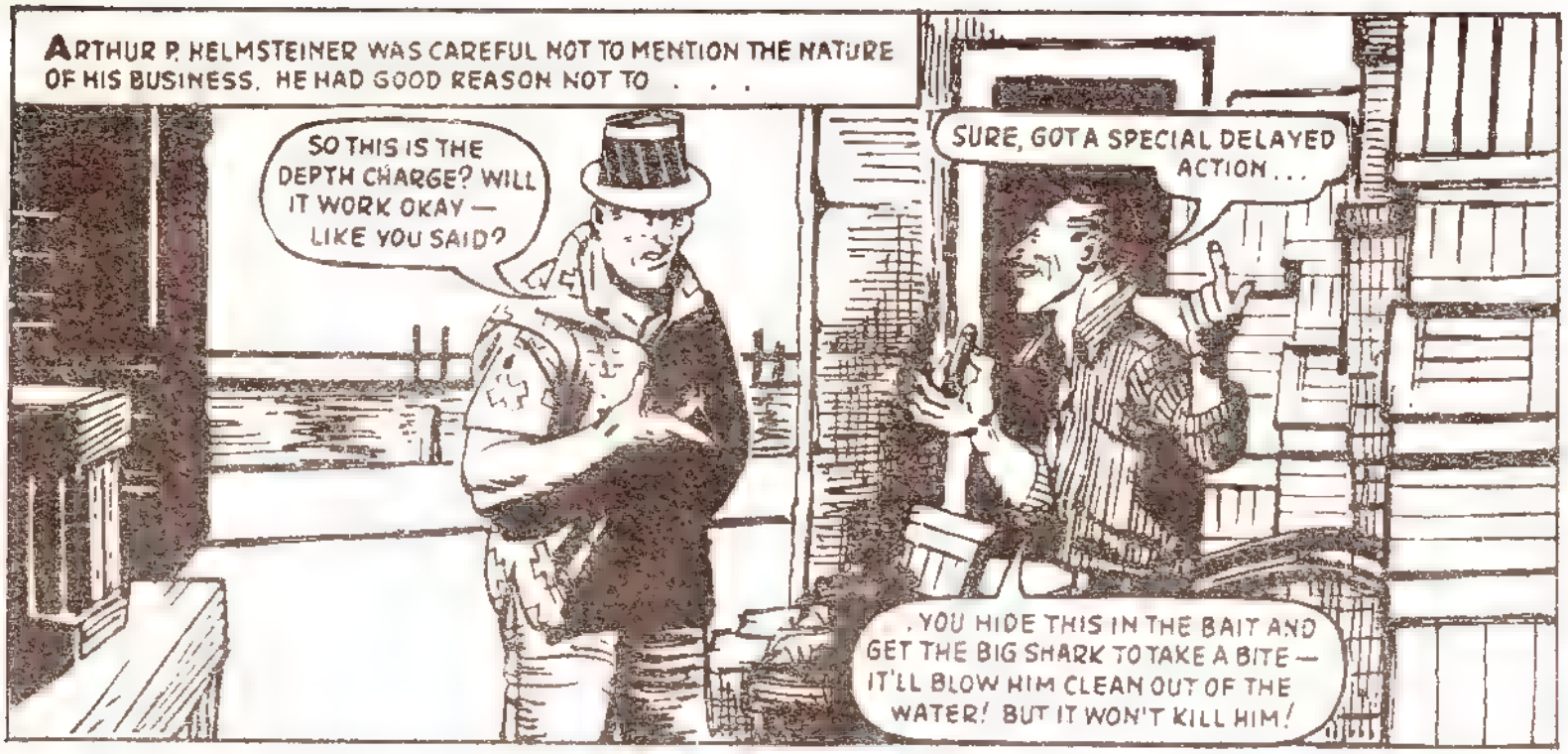
SCARBACK HIT THE WATER AND DIVED INTO THE ENDLESS, MYSTERIOUS DEPTHS OF HIS OWN DOMAIN, THE OCEAN . . .

THE AMERICAN SCOWLED — HE WAS USED TO HAVING HIS OWN WAY IN ALL THINGS . . .

ALL IS NOT LOST— I HAVE A PLAN . . .
YOU BETTER MAKE IT GOOD, FRIEND! I AIN'T CHARTERING THIS BOAT SO YOU CAN GET A NICE TAN! I GOTTA GET THAT DEVIL-FISH — ALIVE. I GOT PLANS FOR IT!

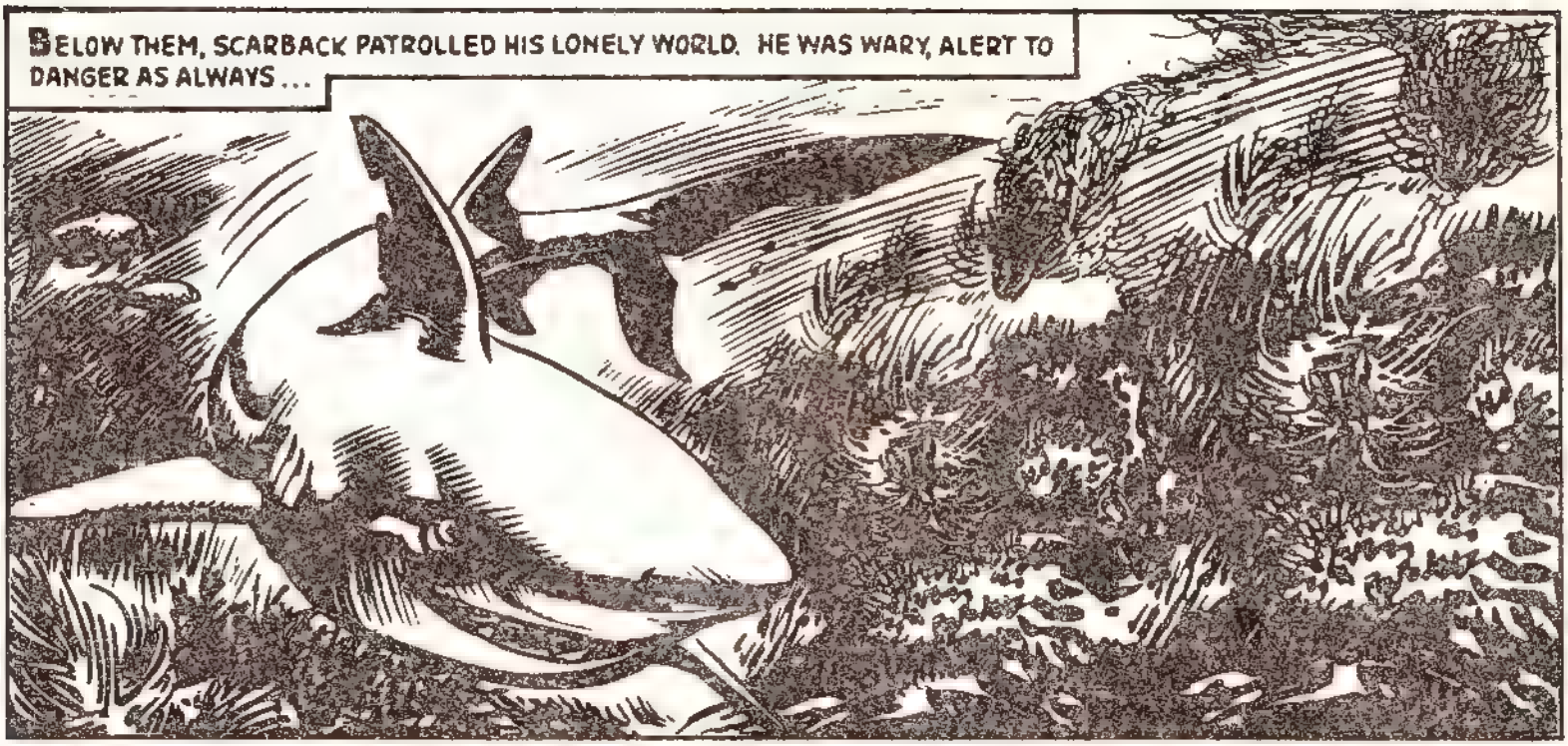

YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE SAW SCARBACK FIGHTING HIS OLD ENEMY, THE GIANT SQUID? *THAT WILL BE MY BAIT!* WHEREVER SCARBACK IS HE WILL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE. *HE MUST*— IT IS HIS NATURE!
SAY, BERNARD, THAT'S CLEVER . . . *I LIKE IT!*

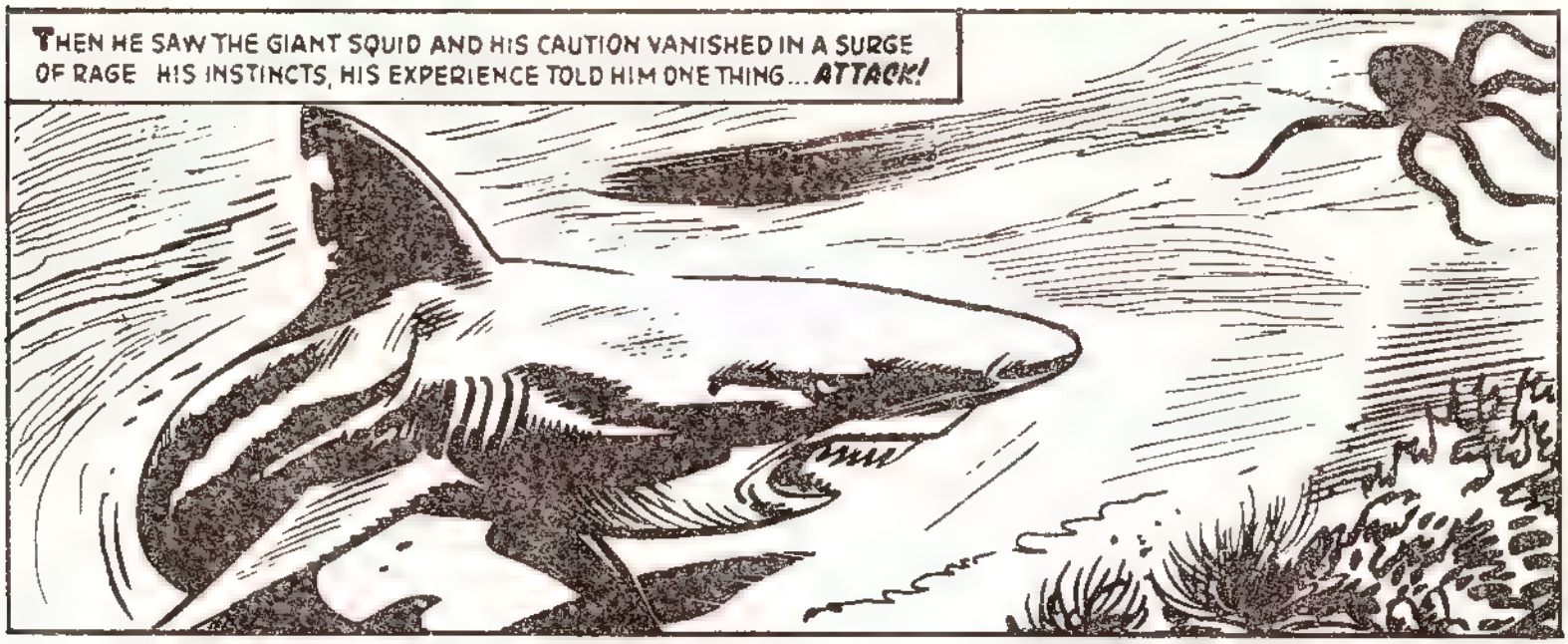
ON THE WAY TO PORT, LOUIS BERNARD LURED A GIANT SQUID INTO HIS NETS . . .
AN UGLY BEAST— BUT OF GREAT VALUE TO US, M'SIEUR. AFTER WE RESTOCK OUR SUPPLIES WE RETURN TO OUR SEARCH! NO TIME WILL BE WASTED!
THAT'S OKAY, BERNARD— I'VE GOT A LITTLE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO . . .

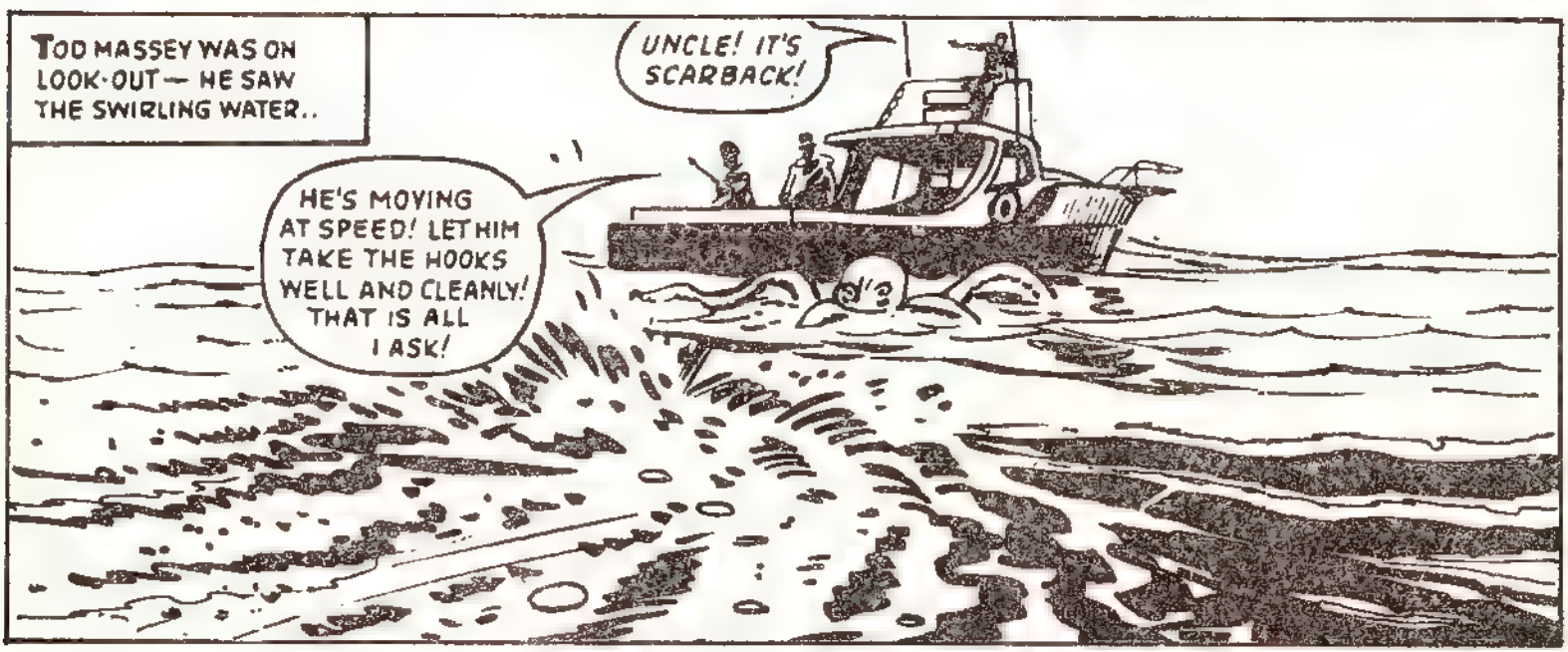

ARTHUR P. HELMSTEINER WAS CAREFUL NOT TO MENTION THE NATURE OF HIS BUSINESS. HE HAD GOOD REASON NOT TO . . .
SO THIS IS THE DEPTH CHARGE? WILL IT WORK OKAY — LIKE YOU SAID?
SURE, GOT A SPECIAL DELAYED ACTION . . .
. YOU HIDE THIS IN THE BAIT AND GET THE BIG SHARK TO TAKE A BITE — IT'LL BLOW HIM CLEAN OUT OF THE WATER! BUT IT WON'T KILL HIM!

WHY DON'T YOU TELL THIS FELLER, BERNARD, WHAT YOU'RE PLANNIN'? YOU PAY THE BILLS — HE'S GOT TO TAKE ORDERS!
HE'S A FUNNY GUY — WANTS TO TAKE SCARBACK HIS WAY, AN' I CAN'T OFFEND HIM BECAUSE HE'S THE ONLY MAN WHO REALLY KNOWS THE CREATURE!
... NO, I'LL PLANT THE DEPTH CHARGE WITHOUT HIM KNOWING ABOUT IT — UNTIL IT GOES OFF, THAT IS! . . .

ONCE THE SUPPLIES WERE ABOARD, THE LAUNCH, CATARACT, HEADED FOR THE OPEN SEA . . .
WELL, HERE GOES! LET'S HOPE WE HAVE SOME REAL LUCK THIS TIME!
WE SHALL! SCARBACK WILL COME FOR MY BAIT — HE CANNOT RESIST IT! THEN WE SHALL FIGHT — SCARBACK AND I!


BELOW THEM, SCARBACK PATROLLED HIS LONELY WORLD. HE WAS WARY, ALERT TO DANGER AS ALWAYS...


THEN HE SAW THE GIANT SQUID AND HIS CAUTION VANISHED IN A SURGE OF RAGE HIS INSTINCTS, HIS EXPERIENCE TOLD HIM ONE THING... ATTACK!

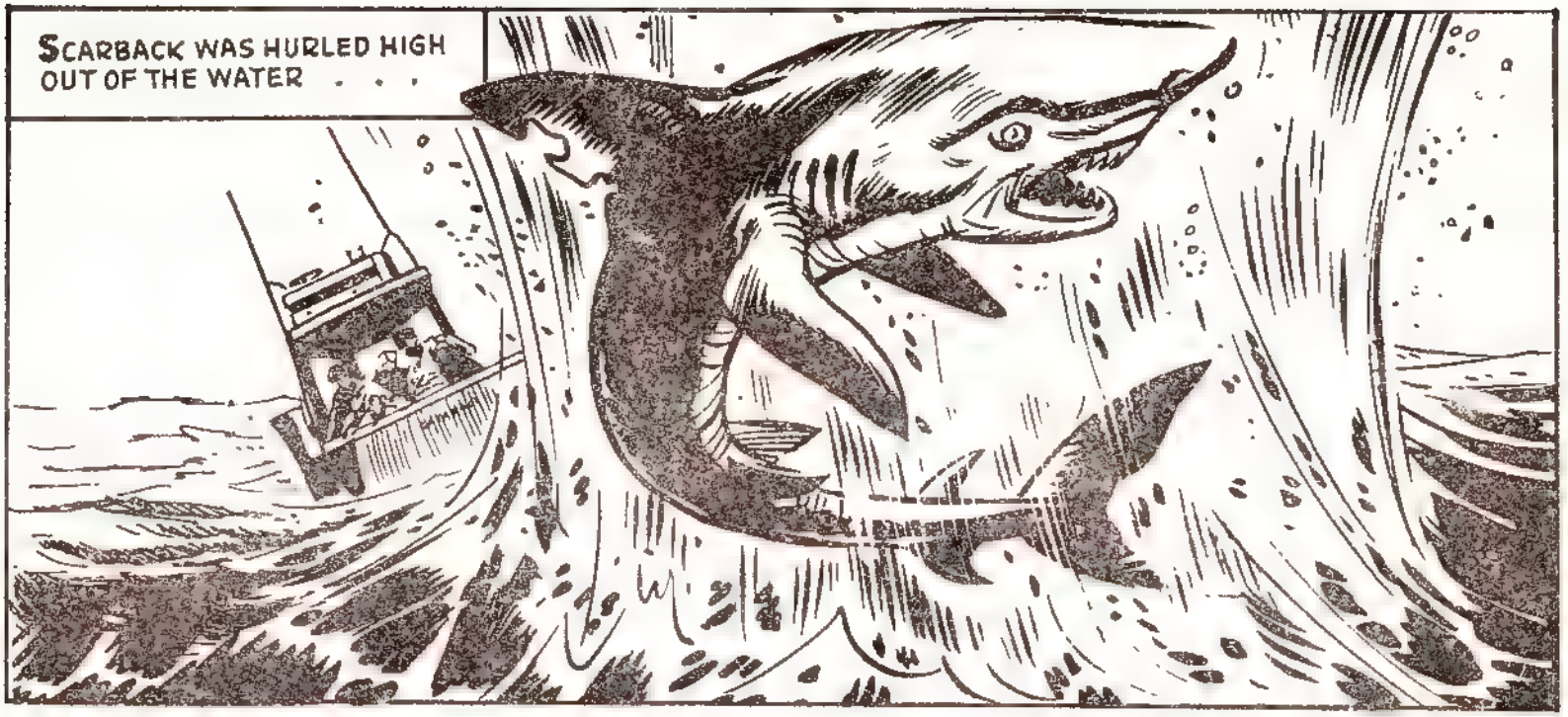

TOD MASSEY WAS ON LOOK-OUT — HE SAW THE SWIRLING WATER..
UNCLE! IT'S SCARBACK!
HE'S MOVING AT SPEED! LET HIM TAKE THE HOOKS WELL AND CLEANLY! THAT IS ALL I ASK!

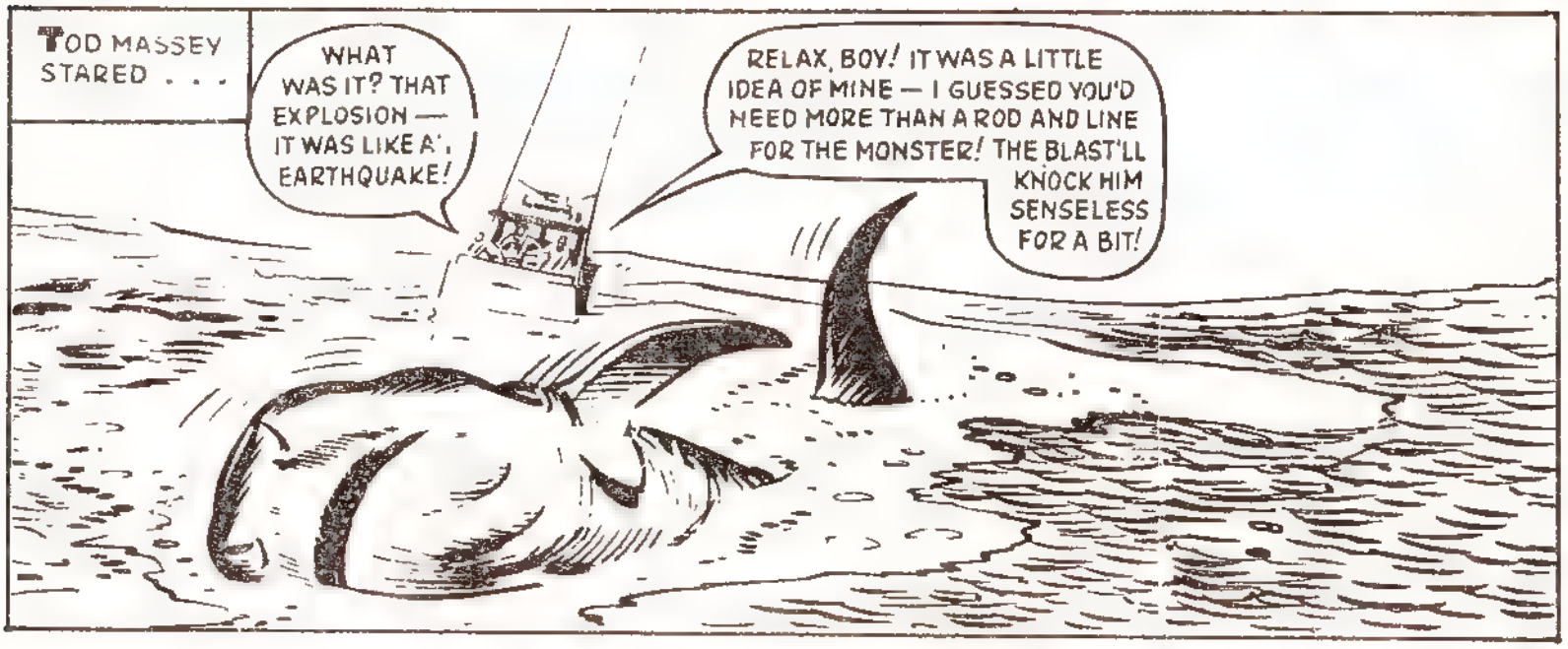
SCARBACK CLOSED WITH HIS ENEMY. RAGE BLUNTED HIS SENSES . . . PREVENTED HIM FROM SUSPECTING THAT IT WAS A TRAP . . .

SCARBACK RACED INTO THE ATTACK . . .

NEXT MOMENT . . .

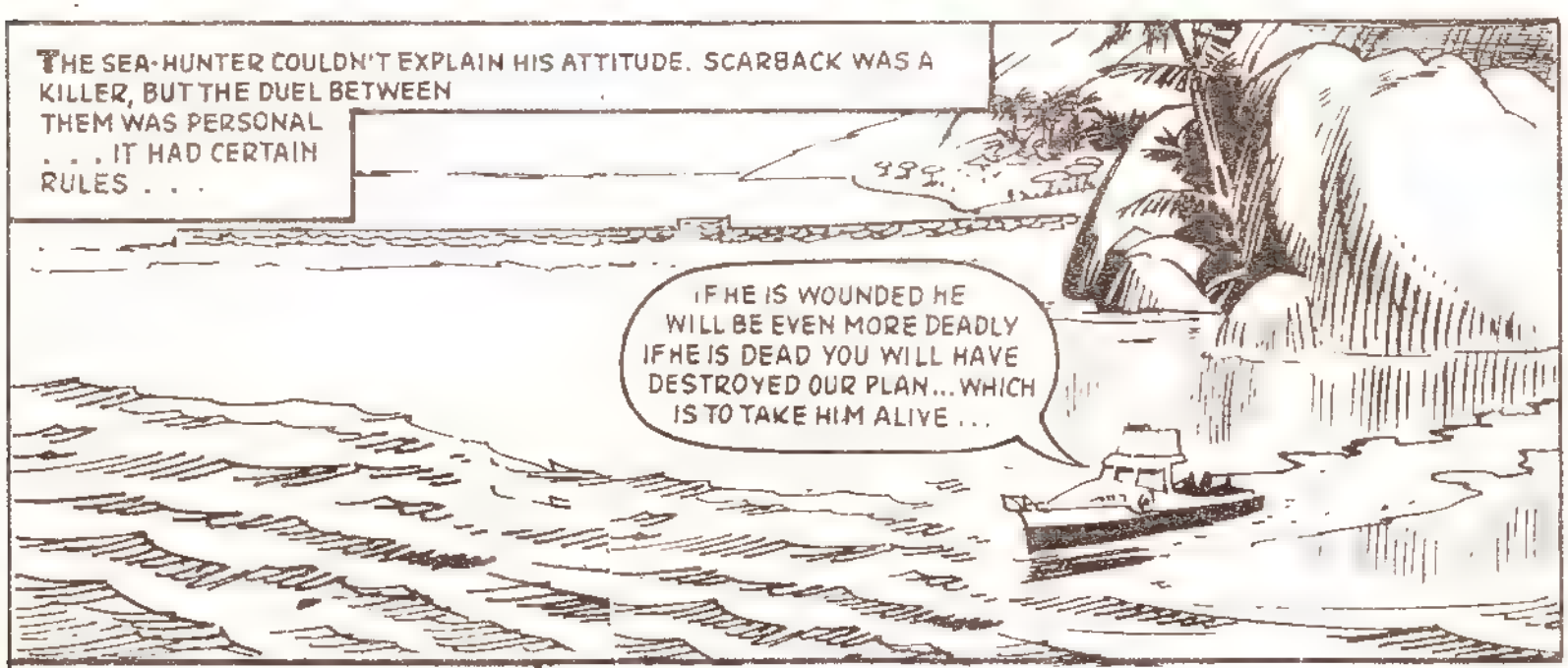
MON DIEU! AN *EXPLOSION!* WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

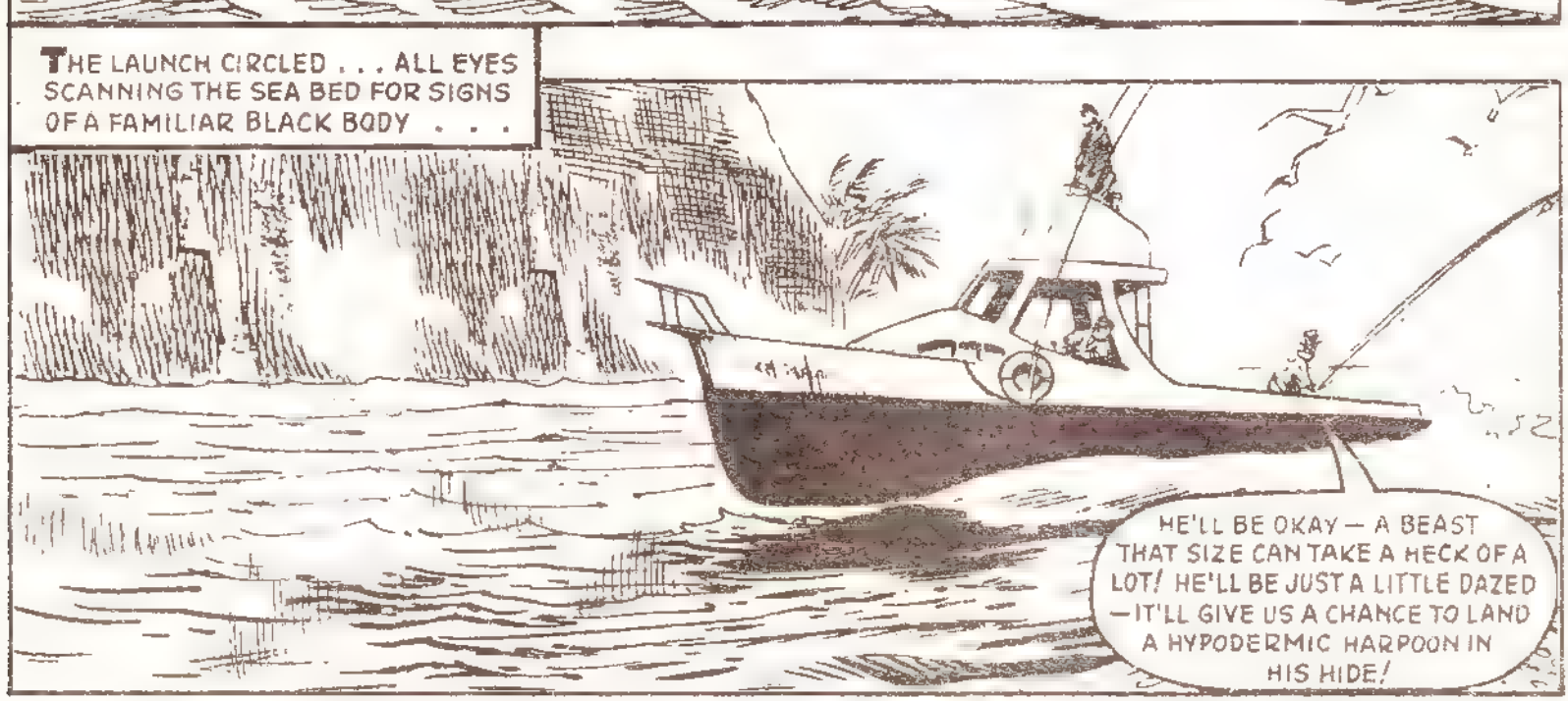

SCARBACK WAS HURLED HIGH OUT OF THE WATER . . .

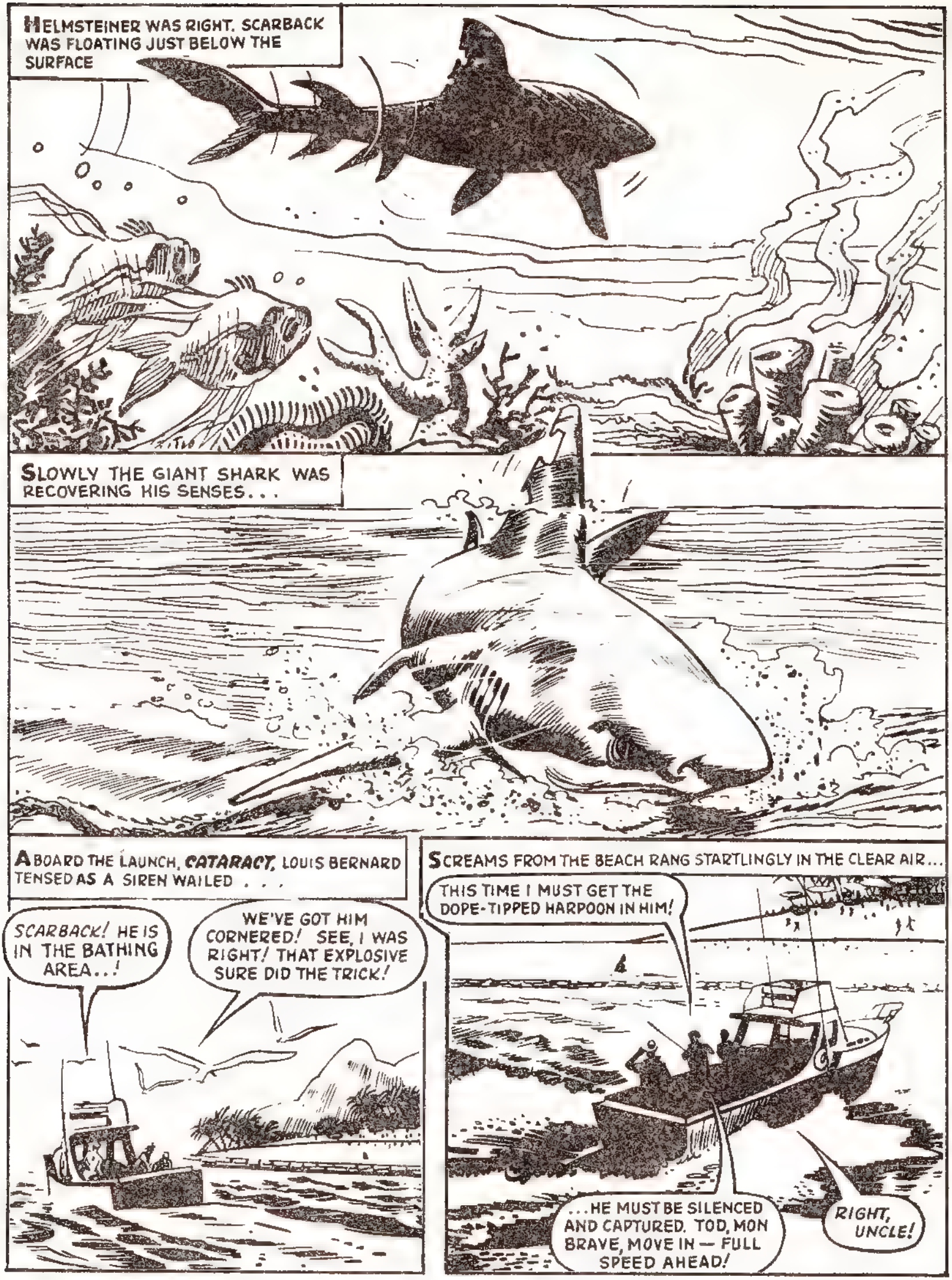

TOD MASSEY STARED . . .
WHAT WAS IT? THAT EXPLOSION — IT WAS LIKE A EARTHQUAKE!
RELAX, BOY! IT WAS A LITTLE IDEA OF MINE — I GUESSED YOU'D NEED MORE THAN A ROD AND LINE FOR THE MONSTER! THE BLAST'LL KNOCK HIM SENSELESS FOR A BIT!

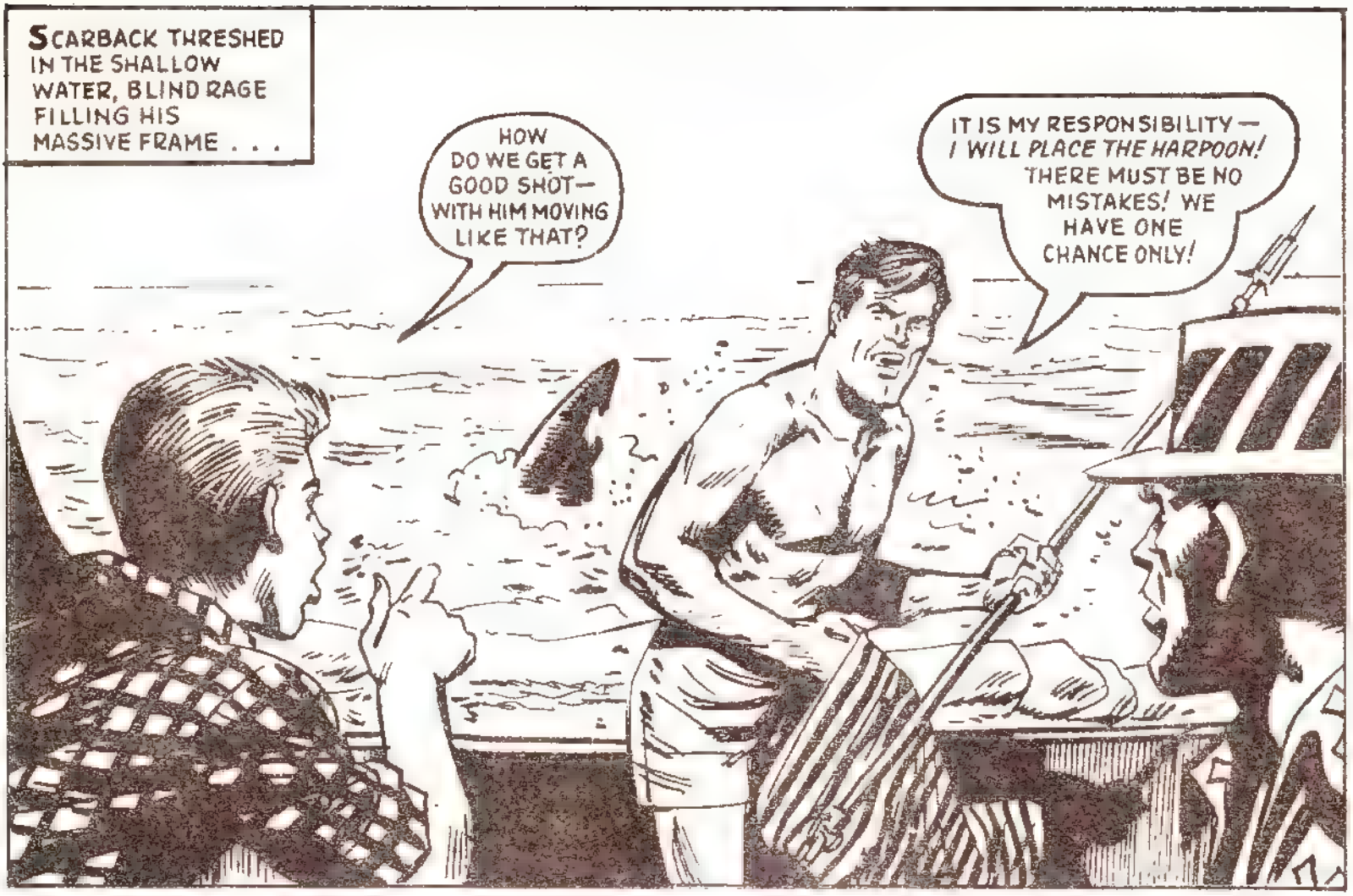
WHO TOLD YOU TO DO THIS THING? I AM IN COMMAND HERE! THIS IS NOT MY WAY!
STEADY, BERNARD— REMEMBER, I'M PAYIN' THE BILLS... THIS IS NO PLEASURE TRIP FOR ME!

WITH AN EFFORT LOUIS CONTROLLED HIS ANGER...
I AIN'T MADE A MILLION BY SITTIN' AROUND PLAYING GAMES! WHAT I WANT I GET — FAST!
YOU MAY KNOW ABOUT MONEY, M'SIEUR — BUT ABOUT THE SEA YOU KNOW NOTHING! WE MUST FIND SCARBACK AT ONCE!

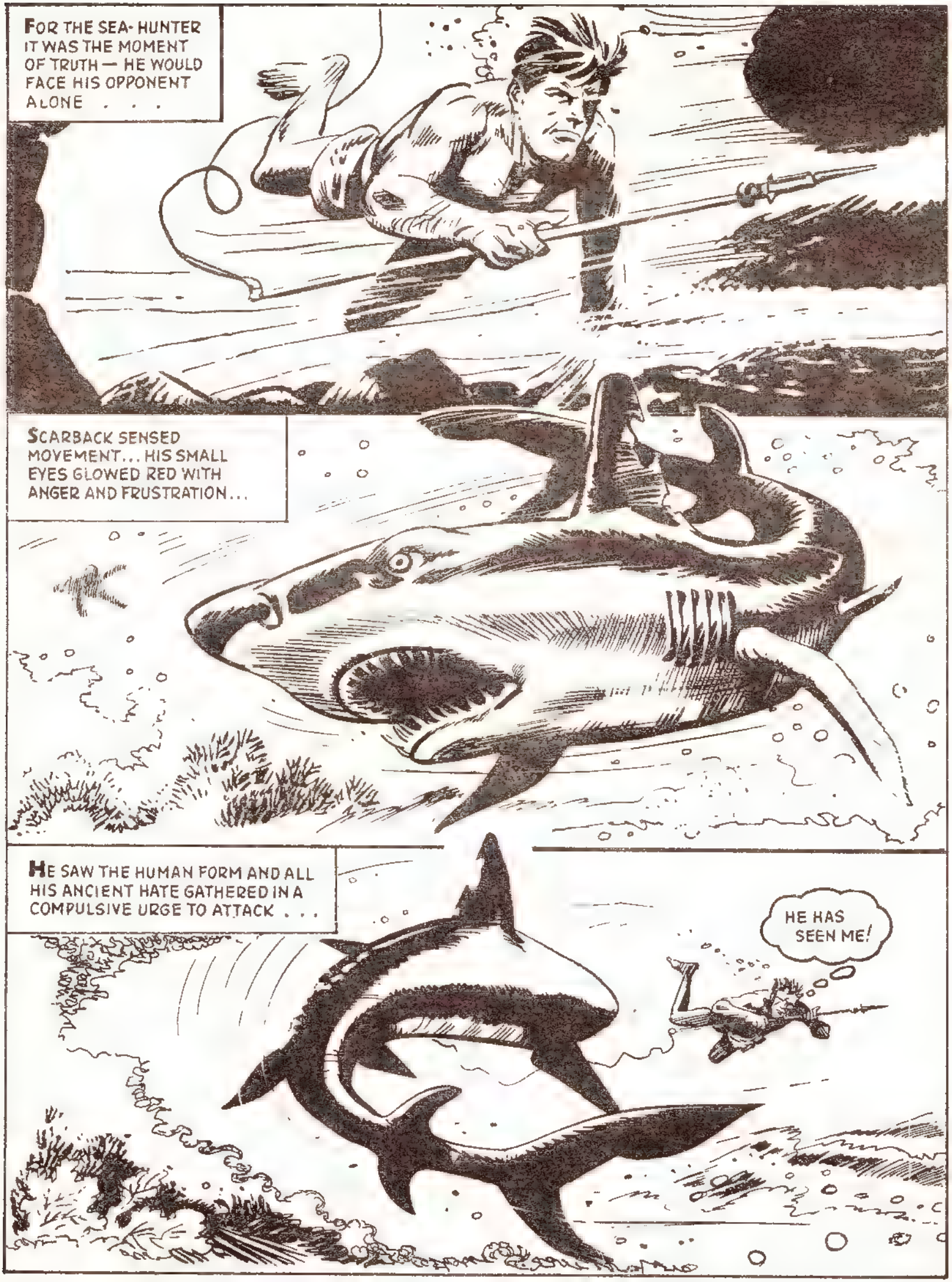

THE SEA-HUNTER COULDN'T EXPLAIN HIS ATTITUDE. SCARBACK WAS A KILLER, BUT THE DUEL BETWEEN THEM WAS PERSONAL . . . IT HAD CERTAIN RULES . . .
IF HE IS WOUNDED HE WILL BE EVEN MORE DEADLY IF HE IS DEAD YOU WILL HAVE DESTROYED OUR PLAN... WHICH IS TO TAKE HIM ALIVE . . .


THE LAUNCH CIRCLED . . . ALL EYES SCANNING THE SEA BED FOR SIGNS OF A FAMILIAR BLACK BODY . . .
HE'LL BE OKAY — A BEAST THAT SIZE CAN TAKE A HECK OF A LOT! HE'LL BE JUST A LITTLE DAZED — IT'LL GIVE US A CHANCE TO LAND A HYPODERMIC HARPOON IN HIS HIDE!


HELMSTEINER WAS RIGHT. SCARBACK WAS FLOATING JUST BELOW THE SURFACE
SLOWLY THE GIANT SHARK WAS RECOVERING HIS SENSES...
ABOARD THE LAUNCH, CATARACT, LOUIS BERNARD TENSED AS A SIREN WAILED . . .
SCARBACK! HE IS IN THE BATHING AREA...!
WE'VE GOT HIM CORNERED! SEE, I WAS RIGHT! THAT EXPLOSIVE SURE DID THE TRICK!
SCREAMS FROM THE BEACH RANG STARTLINGLY IN THE CLEAR AIR...
THIS TIME I MUST GET THE DOPE-TIPPED HARPOON IN HIM!
...HE MUST BE SILENCED AND CAPTURED. TOD, MON BRAVE, MOVE IN — FULL SPEED AHEAD!
RIGHT, UNCLE!


SCARBACK THRESHED IN THE SHALLOW WATER, BLIND RAGE FILLING HIS MASSIVE FRAME . . .
HOW DO WE GET A GOOD SHOT— WITH HIM MOVING LIKE THAT?
IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY— I WILL PLACE THE HARPOON! THERE MUST BE NO MISTAKES! WE HAVE ONE CHANCE ONLY!

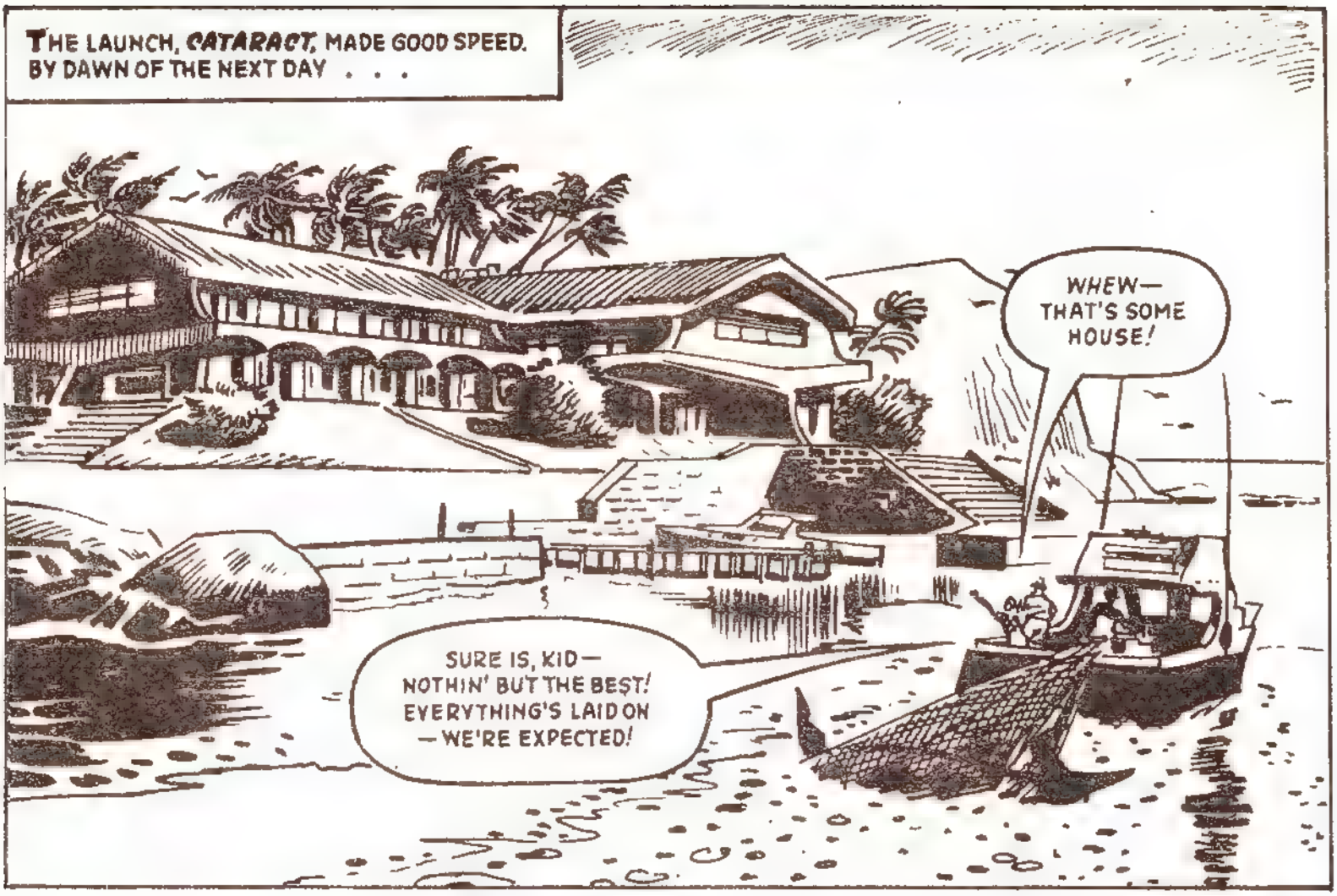
LOUIS GRABBED THE HYPODERMIC HARPOON . . .


FOR THE SEA-HUNTER IT WAS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH — HE WOULD FACE HIS OPPONENT ALONE . . .
SCARBACK SENSED MOVEMENT... HIS SMALL EYES GLOWED RED WITH ANGER AND FRUSTRATION...
HE SAW THE HUMAN FORM AND ALL HIS ANCIENT HATE GATHERED IN A COMPULSIVE URGE TO ATTACK . . .
HE HAS SEEN ME!

SCARBACK ATTACKED!
NOW LOUIS BERNARD'S LIFE HUNG IN THE BALANCE . . .
HE WAS FACING A KILLER . . . . IN THE KILLER'S OWN WORLD!

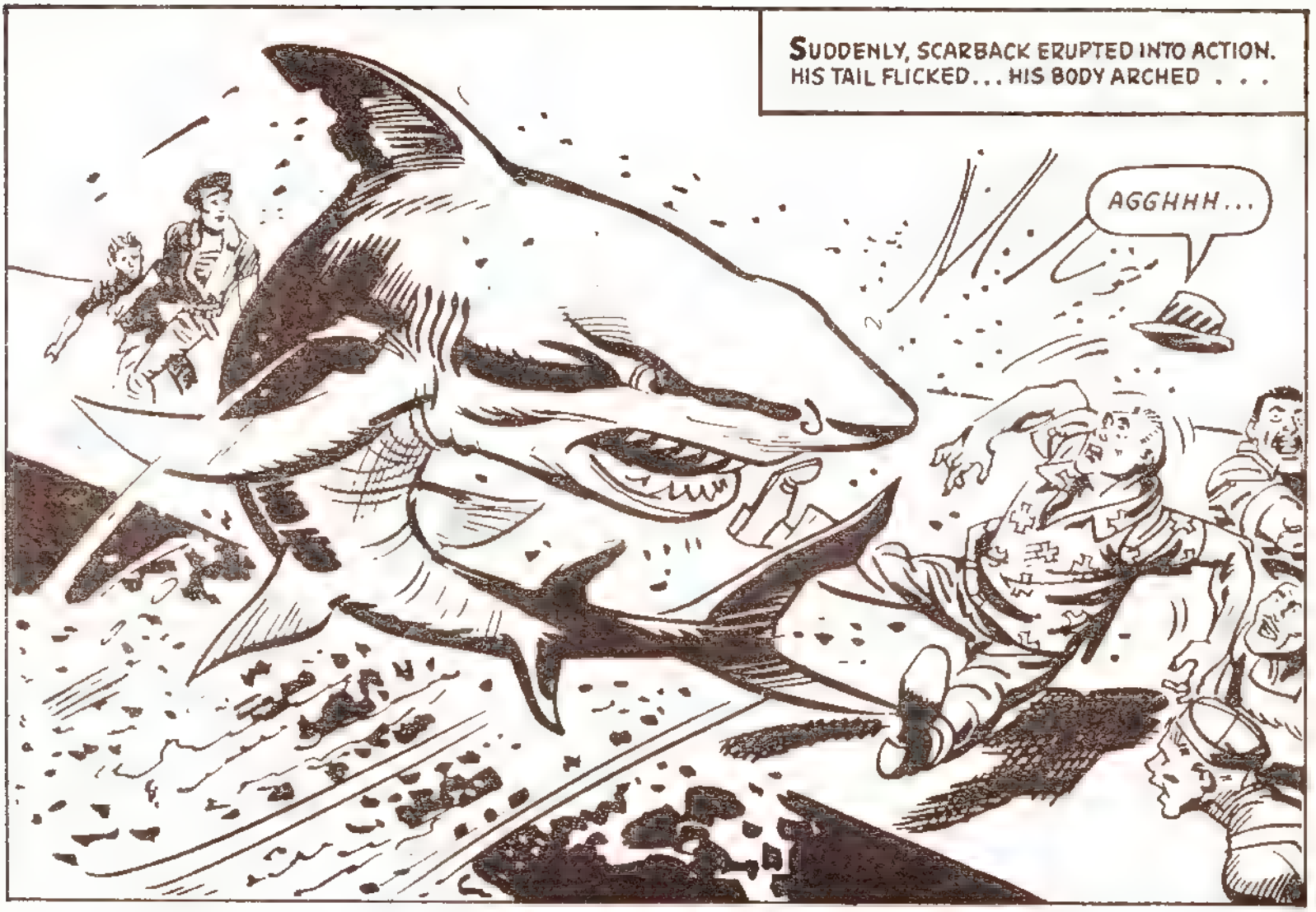
SUDDENLY LOUIS LUNGED FORWARD WITH THE HYPODERMIC HARPOON . . .
GRIMLY THE SEA-HUNTER HUNG ON AS THE SHARK STRUGGLED DESPERATELY...
THE DRUG— IT MUST ACT SOON. HE MUST WEAKEN...
BUT THEN SCARBACK GAVE A TREMENDOUS LEAP . . . AND LOUIS BERNARD'S FINGERS WERE TORN FROM THE HARPOON . . .
UGGHH...
HE...HE'S GOING TO ATTACK!

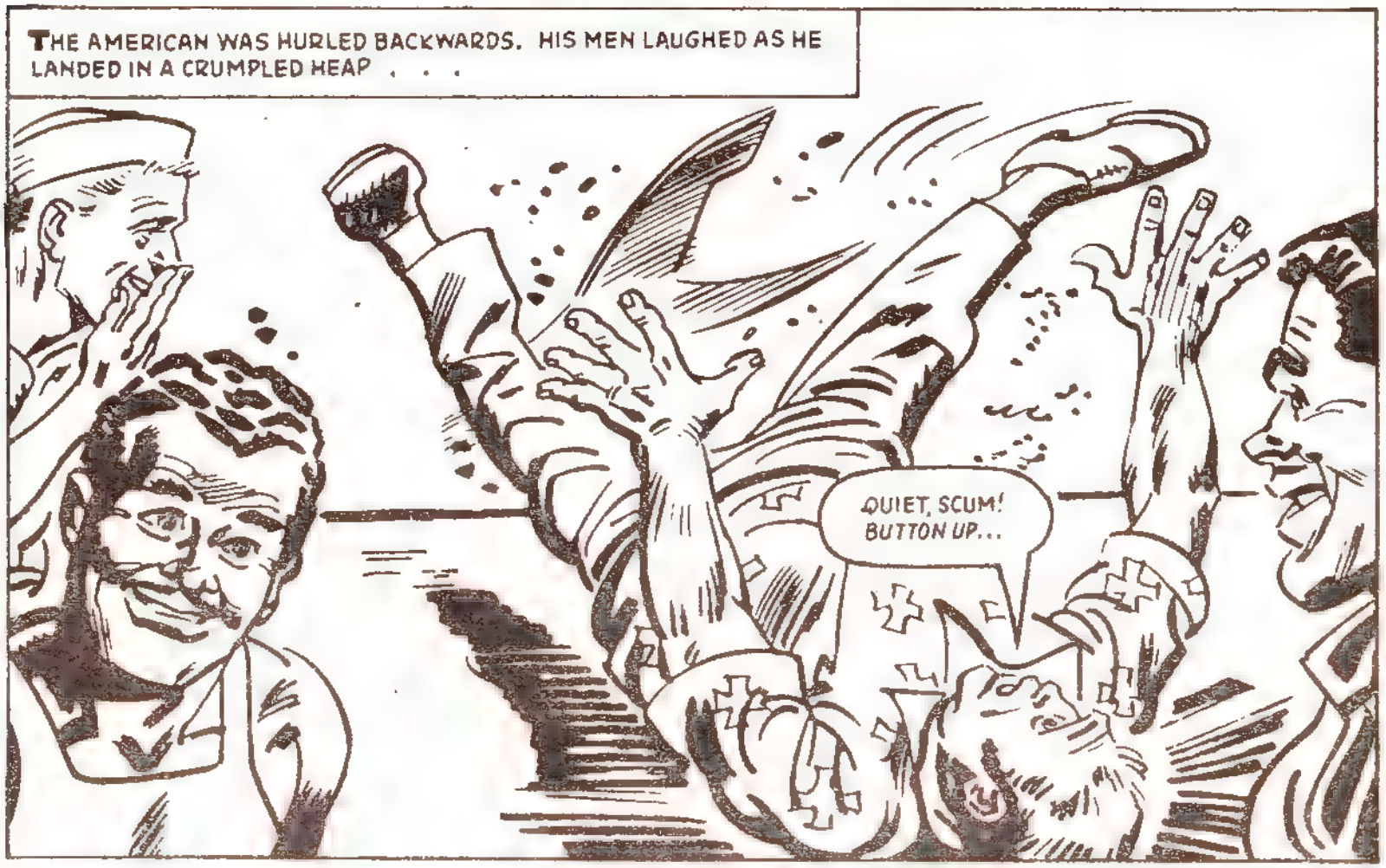
NEXT MOMENT THE TIGER-SHARK FALTERED . . .
THE DRUG — IT IS WORKING AT LAST!
IT WAS OVER. THE BATTLE WAS WON. TOD RAN FORWARD, CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY ARTHUR P. HELMSTEINER . . .
WE DID IT, UH? WE GOT OURSELVES A REAL CATCH! AIN'T THAT MONSTER A SIZE! C'MON, BERNARD, WE'RE GONNA CELEBRATE!
EXCUSE ME, M'SIEUR— I WOULD PREFER THERE TO BE NO CELEBRATIONS. COME, TOD . . .
THE AMERICAN MADE NO OBJECTIONS AS LOUIS ORGANISED THE PREPARATIONS FOR SCARBACK'S JOURNEY...
LASH HIM WELL, TOD! CHECK ALL NETS AND HOLDING ROPES! WE MUST NOT GIVE HIM ANOTHER CHANCE!
RIGHT, UNCLE!

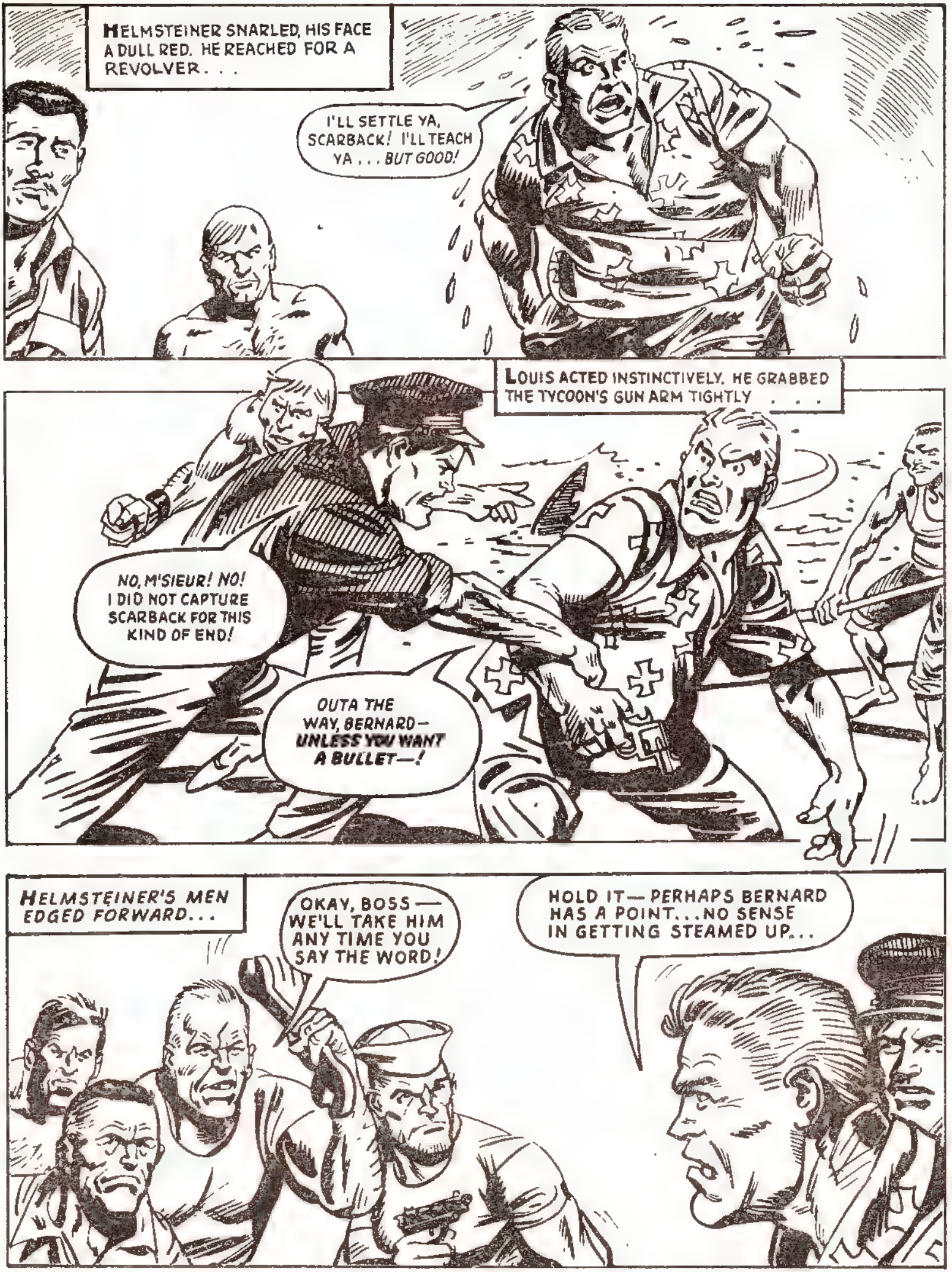

THE LAUNCH, CATARACT, MADE GOOD SPEED. BY DAWN OF THE NEXT DAY . . .
WHEW— THAT'S SOME HOUSE!
SURE IS, KID— NOTHIN' BUT THE BEST! EVERYTHING'S LAID ON —WE'RE EXPECTED!

THE DRUGGED GIANT WAS TOWED INTO A HUGE POOL PROTECTED BY HEAVY SEA WALLS . . .
PULL, FELLERS— I WANT THIS MONSTER SAFE AN' SOUND!

THE SEA WALLS CLOSED AND THE KILLER-SHARK WAS A CAPTIVE — A HELPLESS PRISONER . . .
WHAT DID I TELL YOU, FELLERS? SAID I'D GET HIM — AN' I'M A MAN WHO KEEPS HIS WORD! RIGHT?
RIGHT, BOSS!
I DON'T LIKE THIS, UNCLE! CAN WE GET AWAY AND LEAVE THEM TO IT?
I AGREE, TOD — IT IS NO PLACE FOR US. OUR WORK HAS ENDED . . .

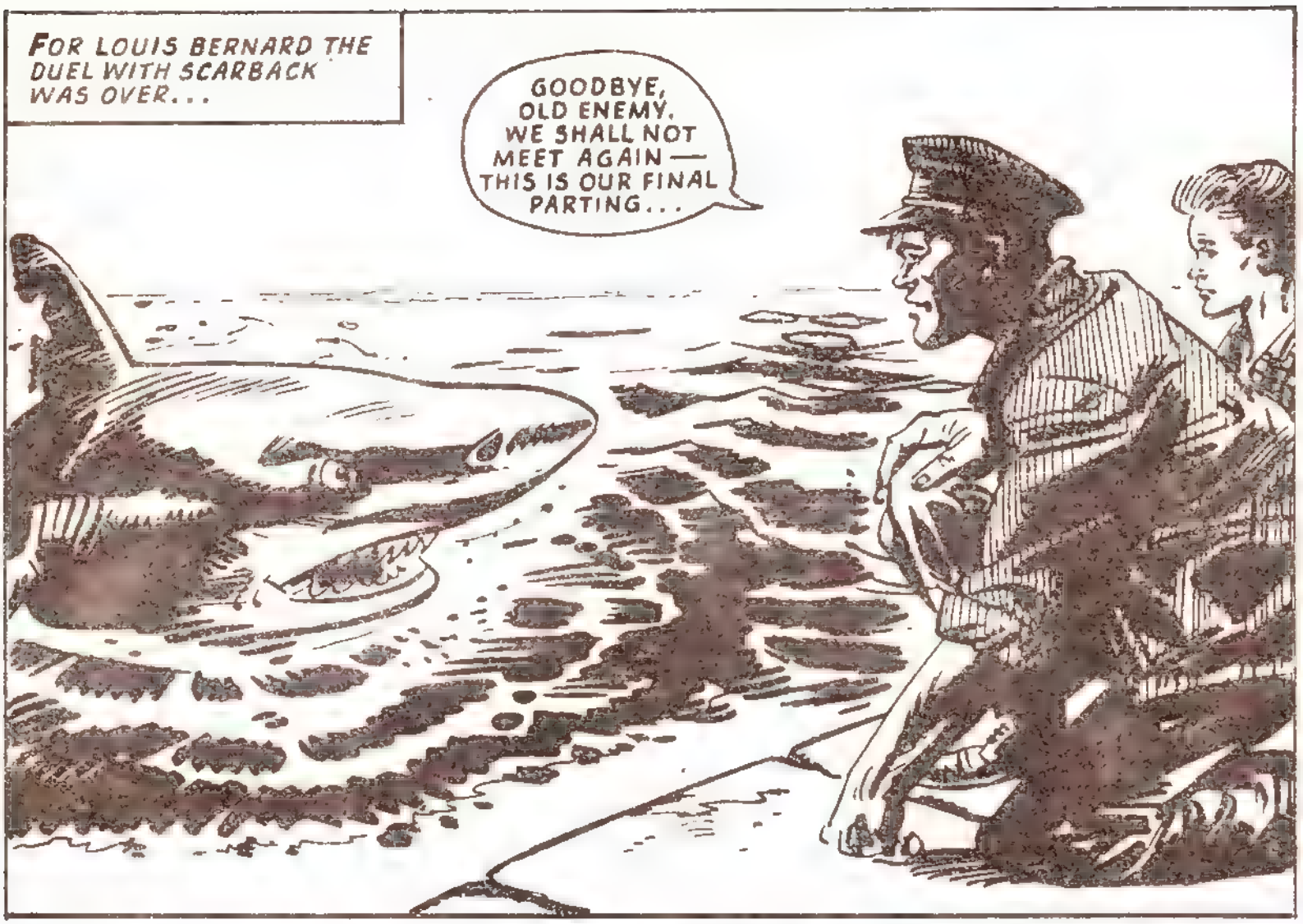

SUDDENLY, SCARBACK ERUPTED INTO ACTION. HIS TAIL FLICKED... HIS BODY ARCHED . . .
AGGHHH...


THE AMERICAN WAS HURLED BACKWARDS. HIS MEN LAUGHED AS HE LANDED IN A CRUMPLED HEAP . . .
QUIET, SCUM! BUTTON UP...

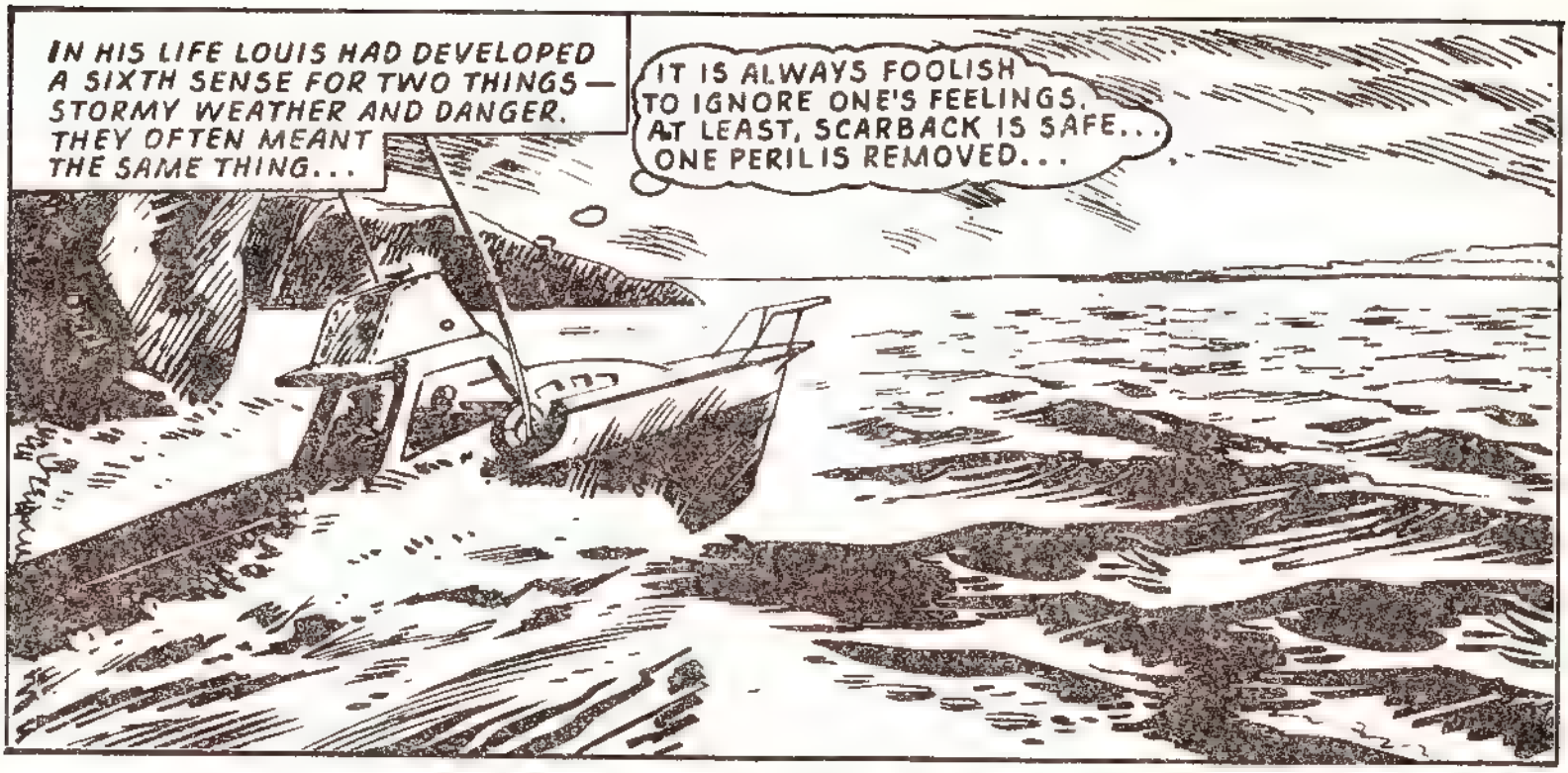

HELMSTEINER SNARLED, HIS FACE A DULL RED. HE REACHED FOR A REVOLVER . . .
I'LL SETTLE YA, SCARBACK! I'LL TEACH YA . . . BUT GOOD!
LOUIS ACTED INSTINCTIVELY. HE GRABBED THE TYCOON'S GUN ARM TIGHTLY . . .
NO, M'SIEUR! NO! I DID NOT CAPTURE SCARBACK FOR THIS KIND OF END!
OUTA THE WAY, BERNARD— UNLESS YOU WANT A BULLET—!
HELMSTEINER'S MEN EDGED FORWARD . . .
OKAY, BOSS — WE'LL TAKE HIM ANY TIME YOU SAY THE WORD!
HOLD IT— PERHAPS BERNARD HAS A POINT . . . NO SENSE IN GETTING STEAMED UP . . .

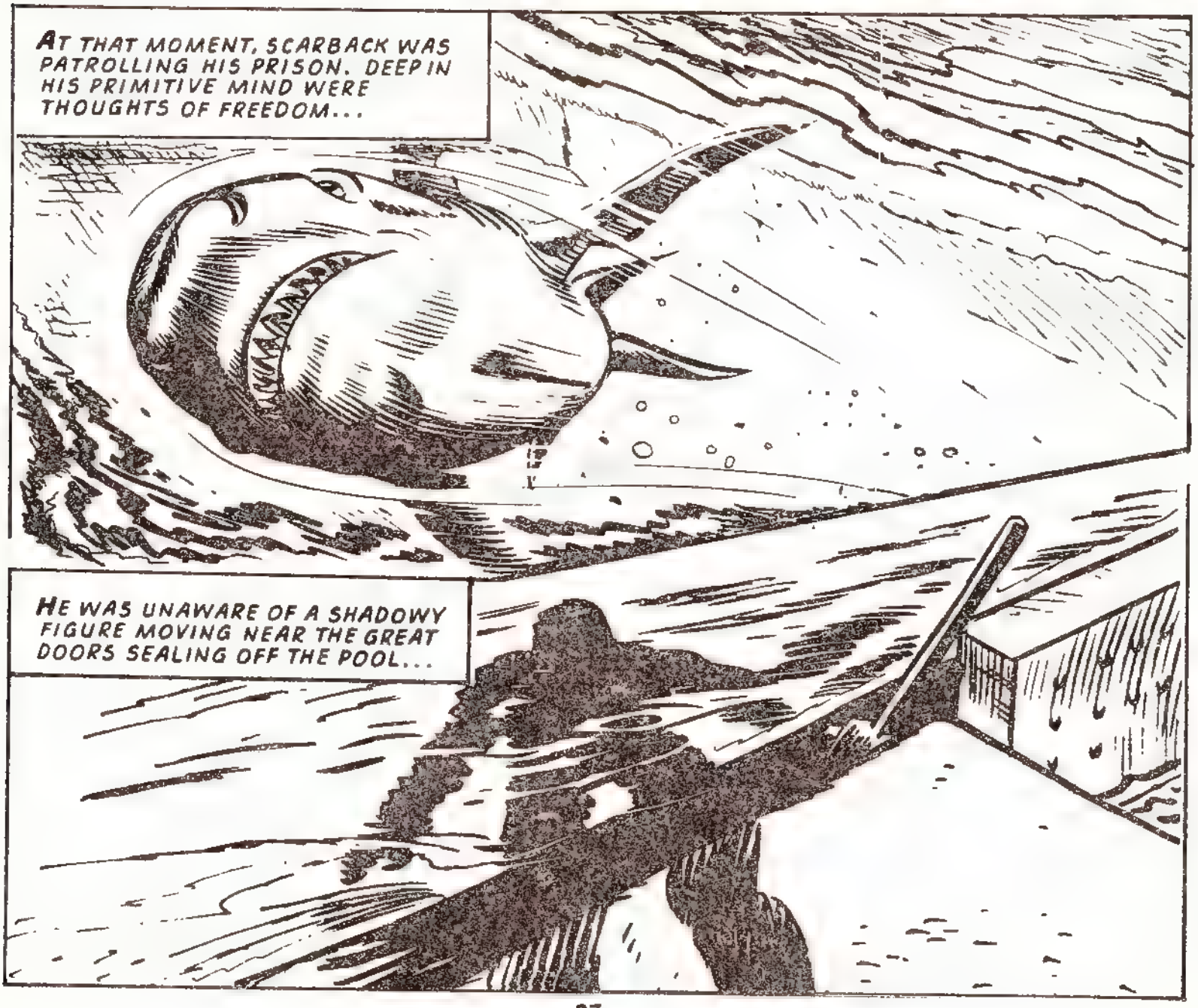
I'M GLAD YOU SEE IT MY WAY, M'SIEUR. I HAVE A CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CREATURE.
SURE, SURE! GUESS THE TIME'S COME FOR SETTLING UP! YOU'VE EARNED EVERY CENT OF YOUR FEE!

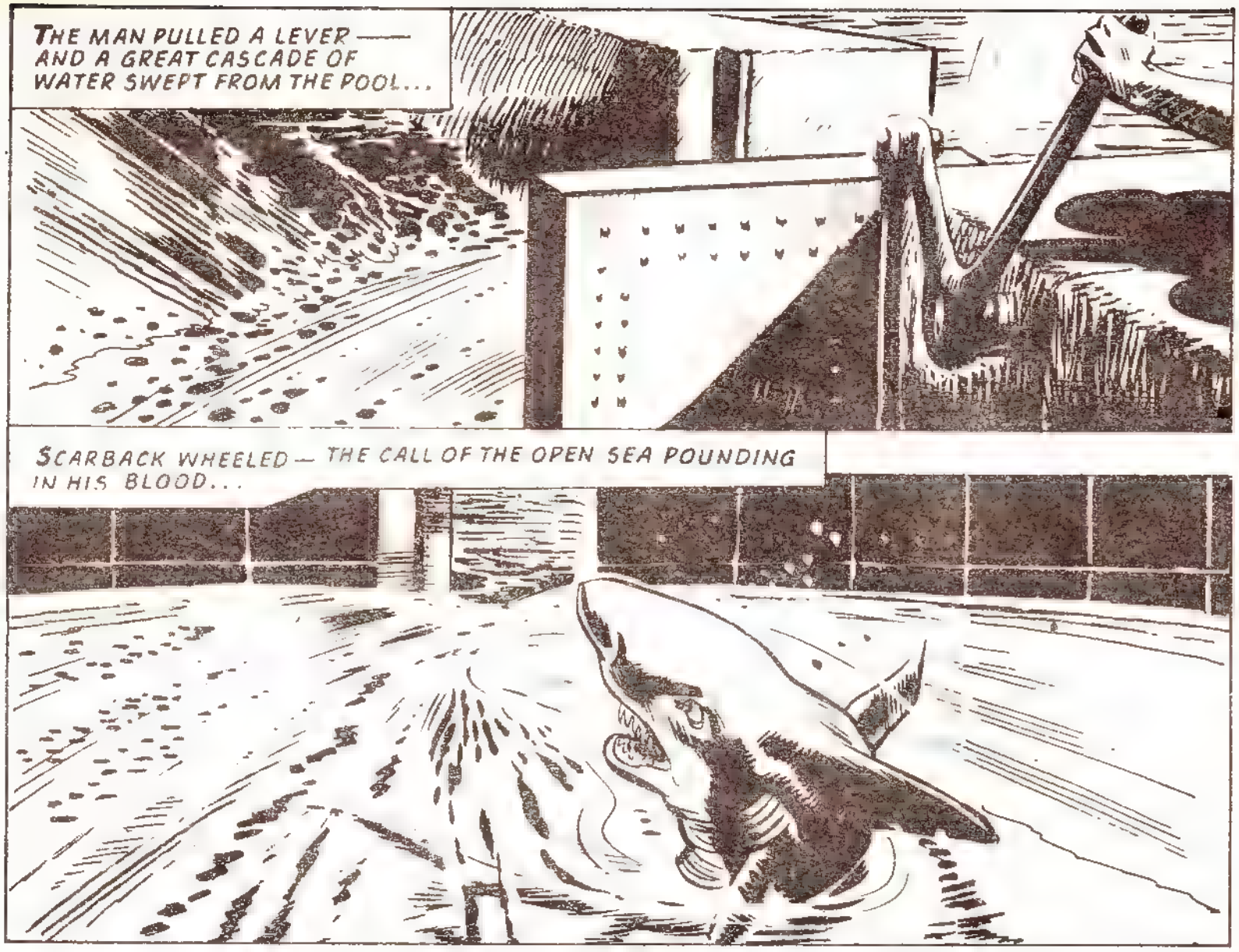
THE AMERICAN HAD RECOVERED HIS GOOD HUMOUR!
HERE — A GOOD PRICE FOR A GOOD JOB! AND A BONUS! WHEN I PAY I REALLY PAY!
NO BONUS, PLEASE. JUST THE AGREED CONTRACT, NO MORE AND NO LESS.

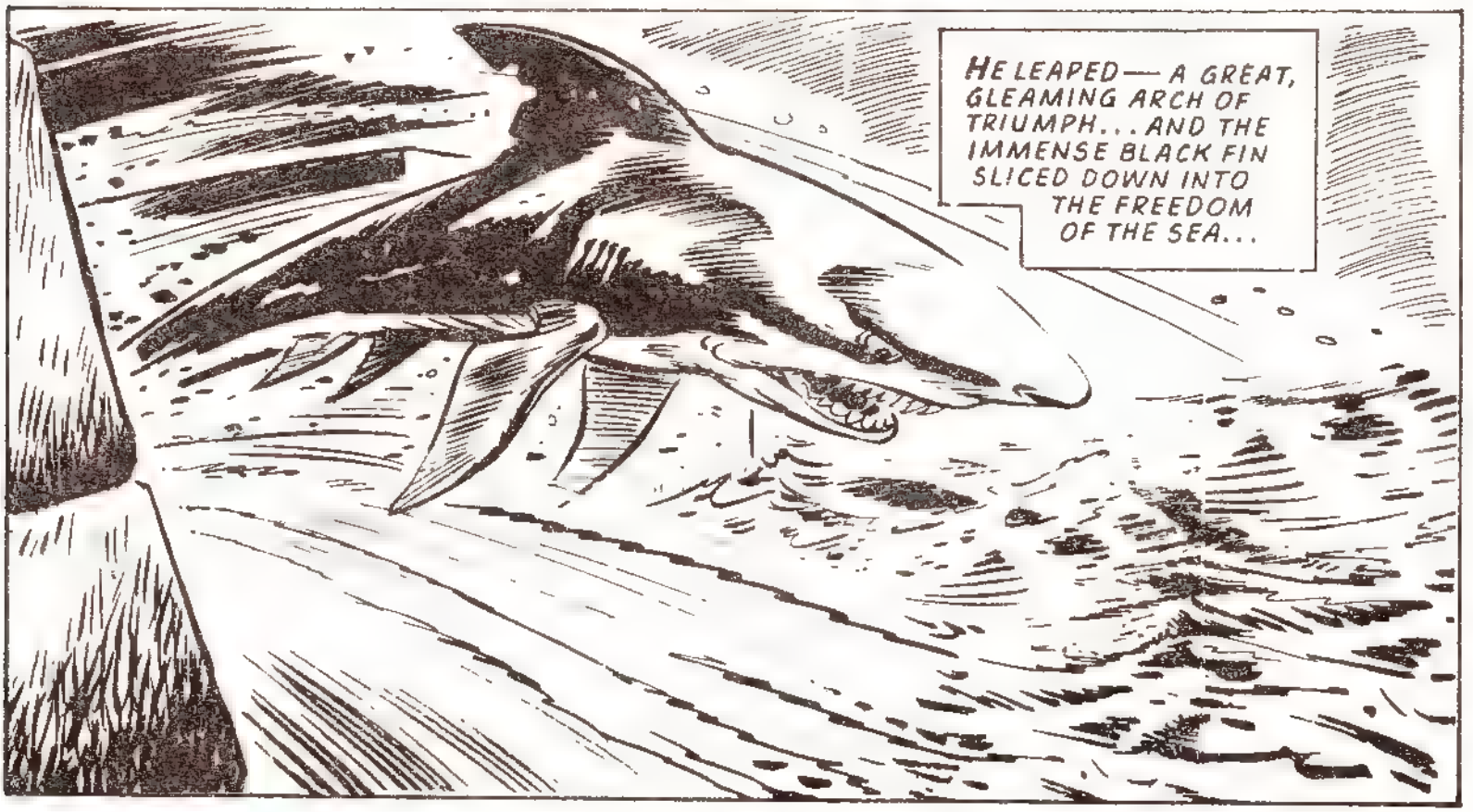

FOR LOUIS BERNARD THE DUEL WITH SCARBACK WAS OVER...
GOODBYE, OLD ENEMY. WE SHALL NOT MEET AGAIN — THIS IS OUR FINAL PARTING...

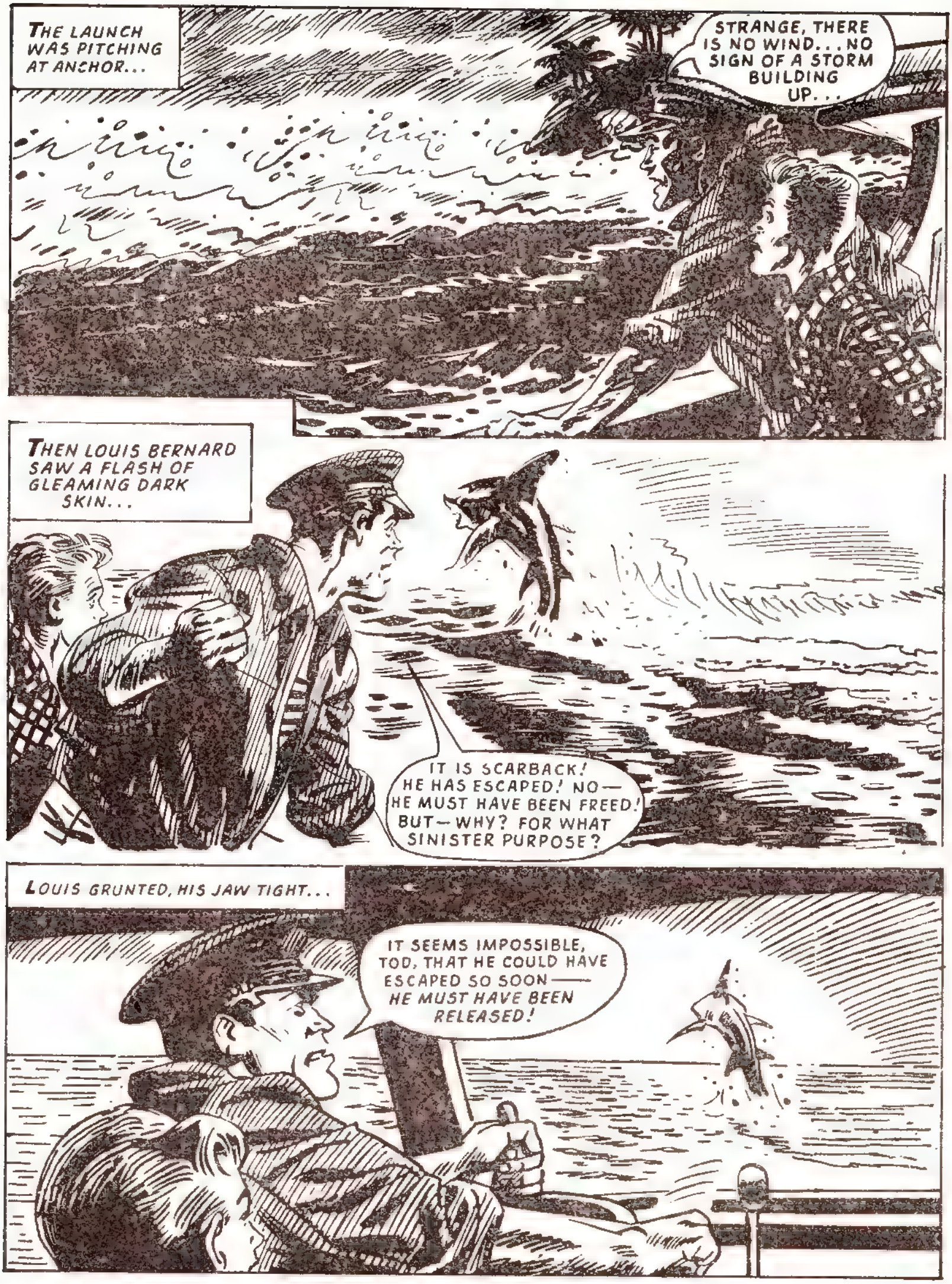
IT WAS DUSK BEFORE THEIR LAUNCH, CATARACT, WAS READY TO PUT TO SEA...
AT LAST, THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! FULL SPEED FOR HOME, UNCLE?.
A MOMENT, TOD. I FEEL UNEASY. THERE MAY BE A STORM BREWING WE'LL ANCHOR BEHIND THE HEADLAND!

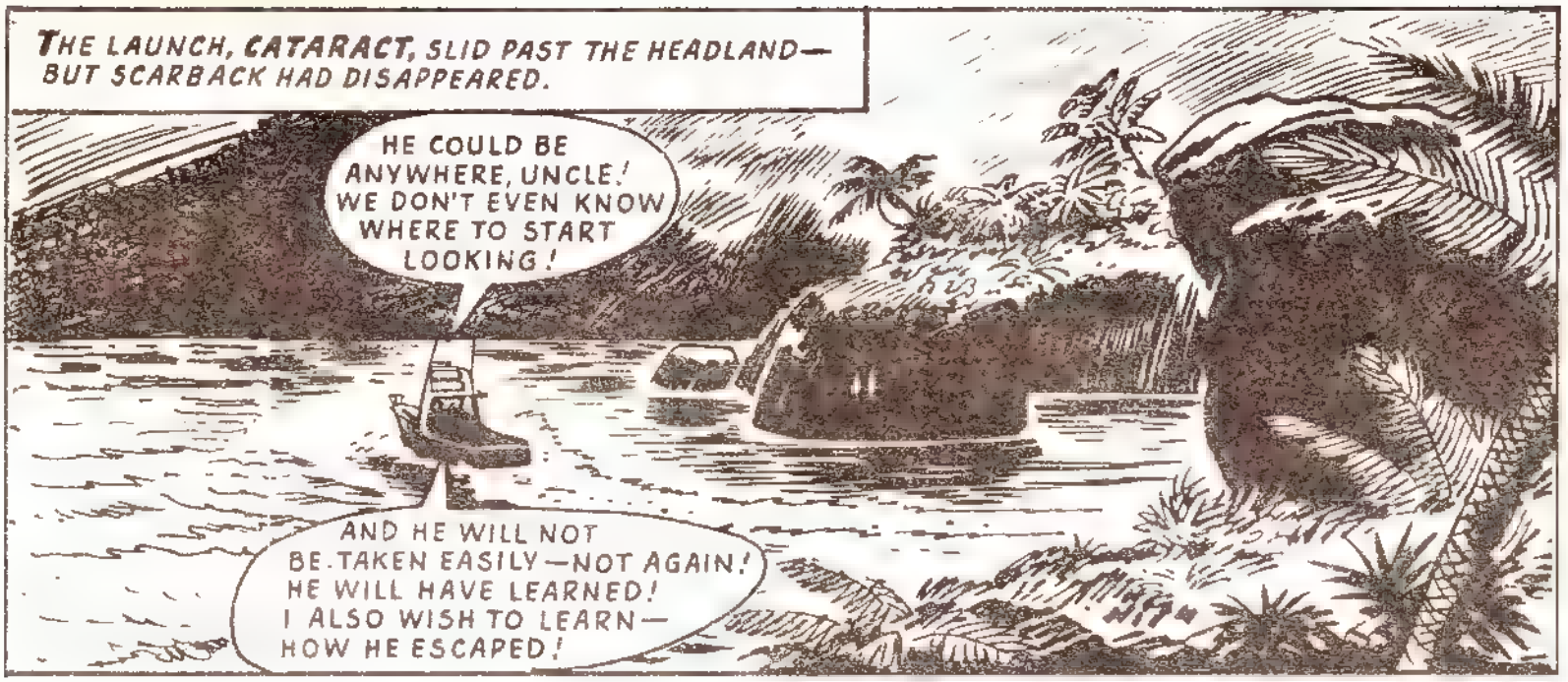

IN HIS LIFE LOUIS HAD DEVELOPED A SIXTH SENSE FOR TWO THINGS— STORMY WEATHER AND DANGER. THEY OFTEN MEANT THE SAME THING...
IT IS ALWAYS FOOLISH TO IGNORE ONE'S FEELINGS. AT LEAST, SCARBACK IS SAFE... ONE PERIL IS REMOVED...

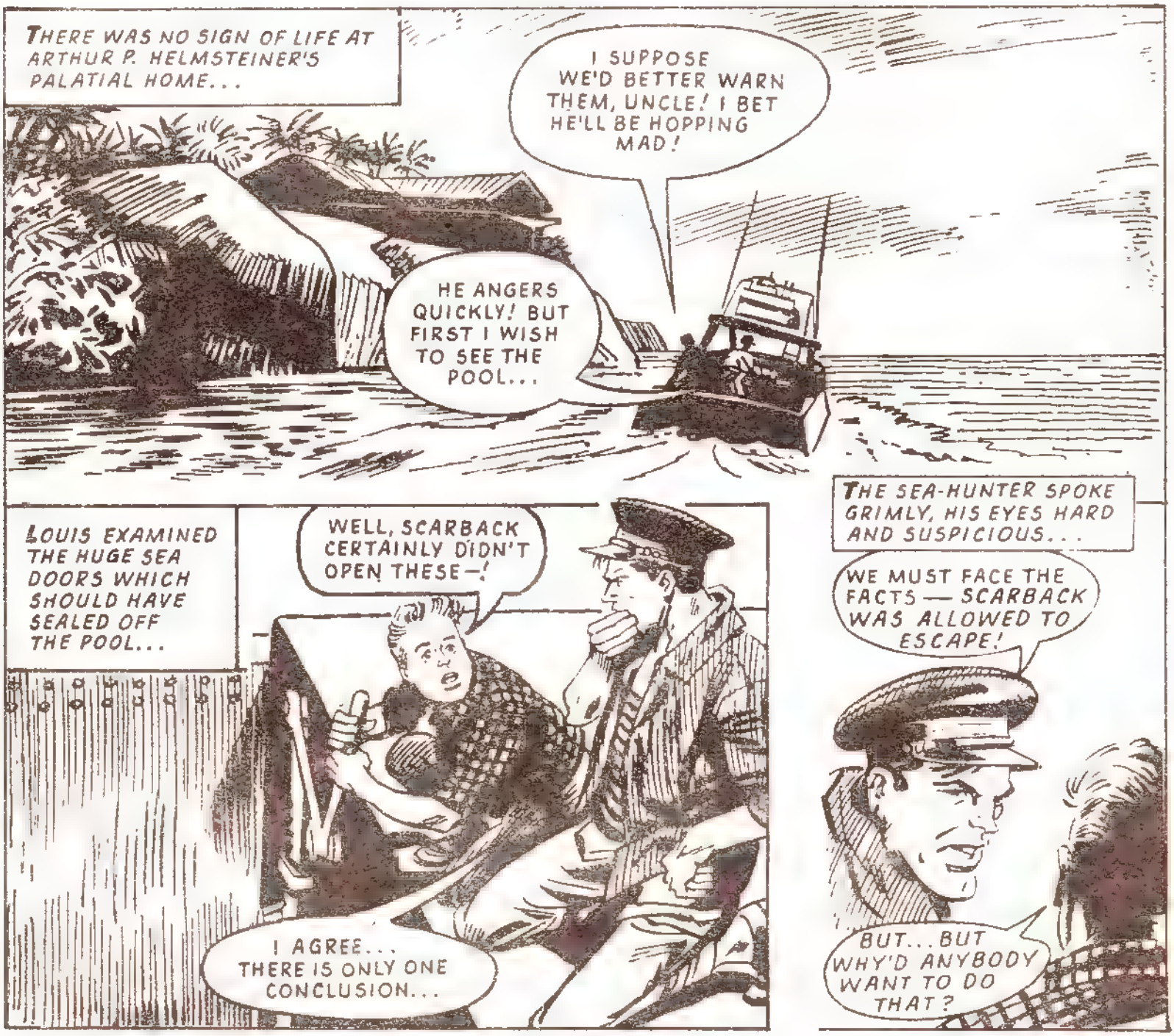

AT THAT MOMENT, SCARBACK WAS PATROLLING HIS PRISON. DEEP IN HIS PRIMITIVE MIND WERE THOUGHTS OF FREEDOM...
HE WAS UNAWARE OF A SHADOWY FIGURE MOVING NEAR THE GREAT DOORS SEALING OFF THE POOL...


THE MAN PULLED A LEVER — AND A GREAT CASCADE OF WATER SWEPT FROM THE POOL...
SCARBACK WHEELED — THE CALL OF THE OPEN SEA POUNDING IN HIS BLOOD...

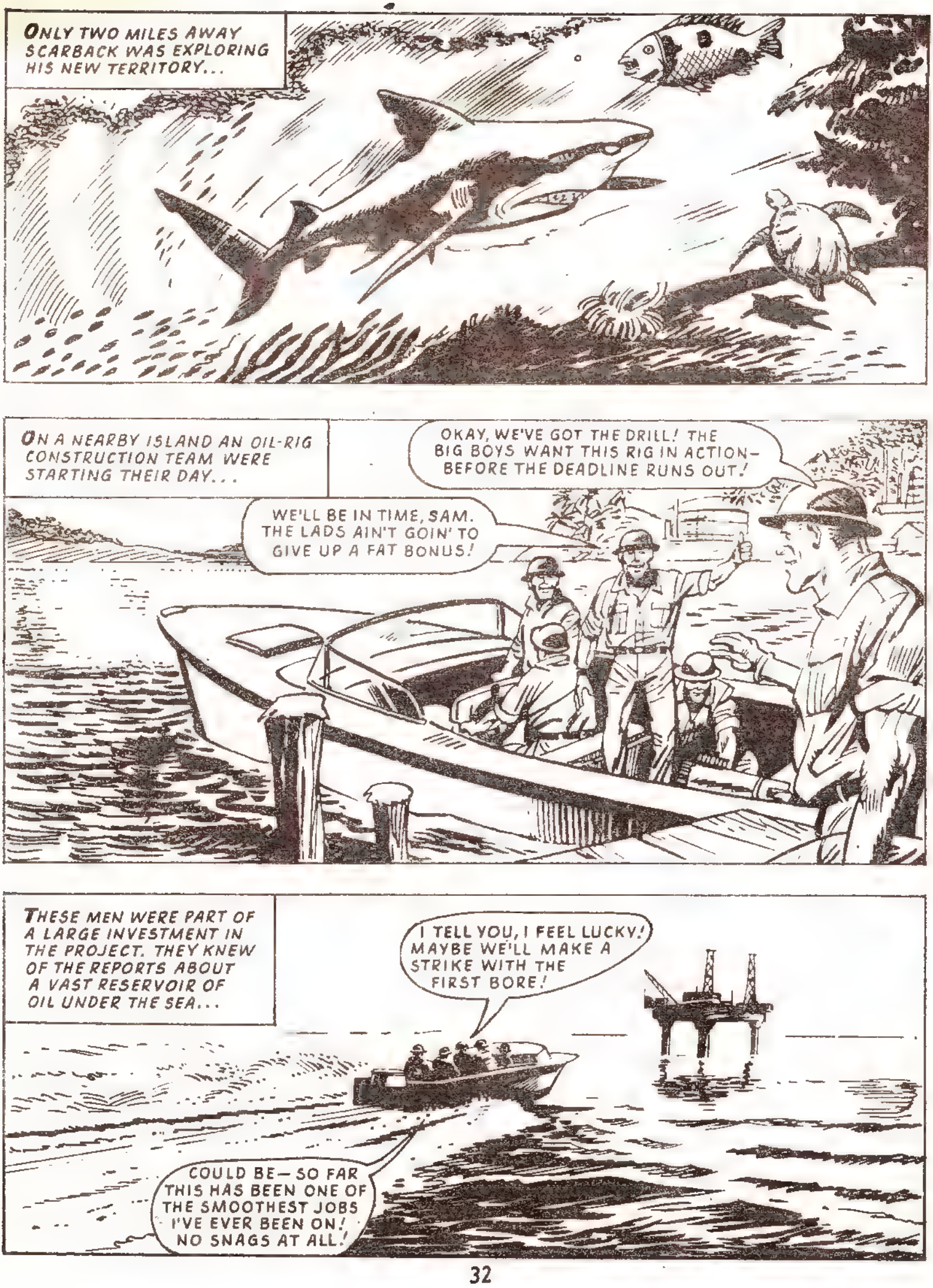

HE LEAPED — A GREAT, GLEAMING ARCH OF TRIUMPH... AND THE IMMENSE BLACK FIN SLICED DOWN INTO THE FREEDOM OF THE SEA...

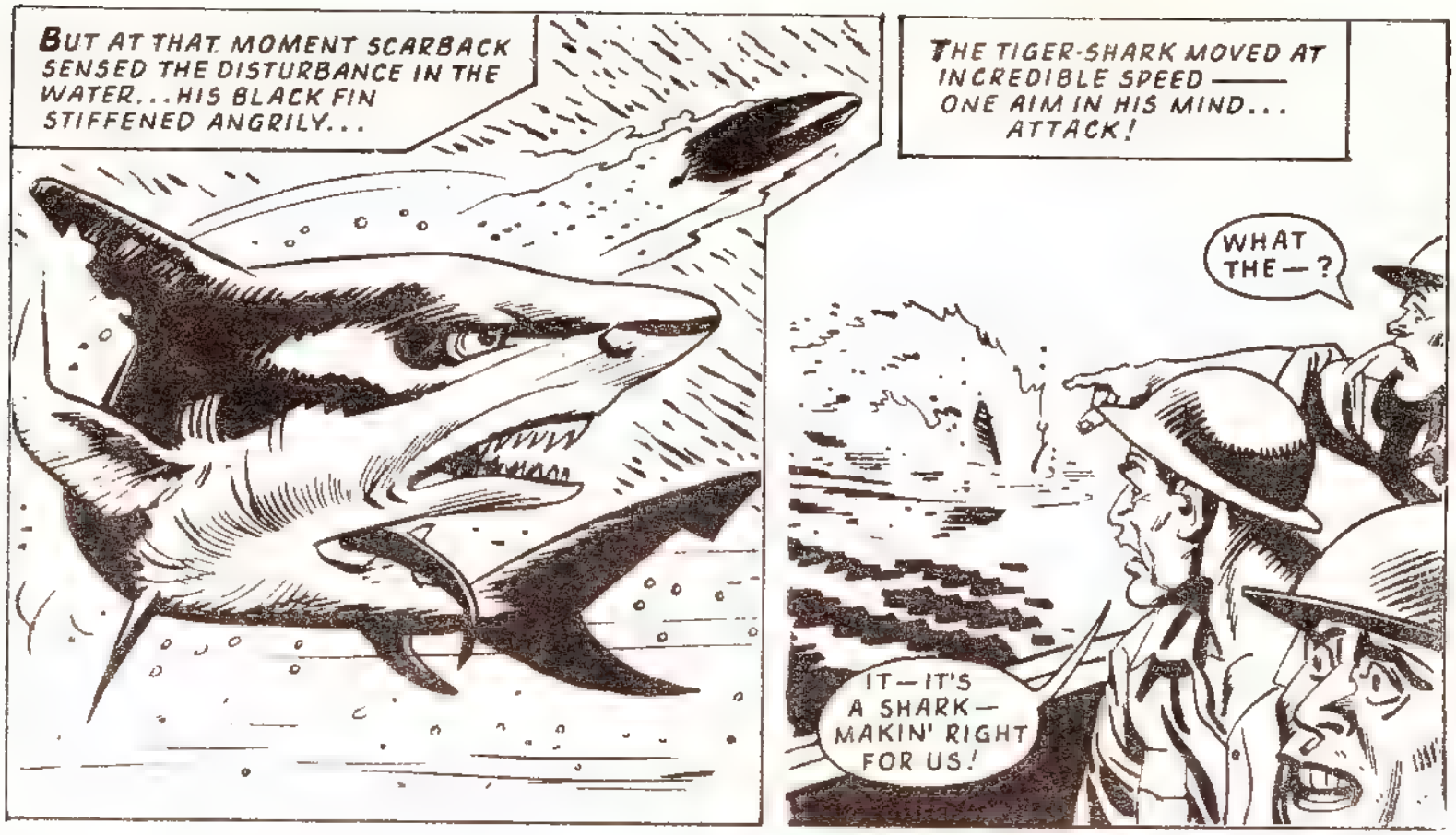

THE LAUNCH WAS PITCHING AT ANCHOR...
STRANGE, THERE IS NO WIND... NO SIGN OF A STORM BUILDING UP...
THEN LOUIS BERNARD SAW A FLASH OF GLEAMING DARK SKIN...
IT IS SCARBACK! HE HAS ESCAPED! NO— HE MUST HAVE BEEN FREED! BUT— WHY? FOR WHAT SINISTER PURPOSE?
LOUIS GRUNTED, HIS JAW TIGHT...
IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE, TOD, THAT HE COULD HAVE ESCAPED SO SOON— HE MUST HAVE BEEN RELEASED!

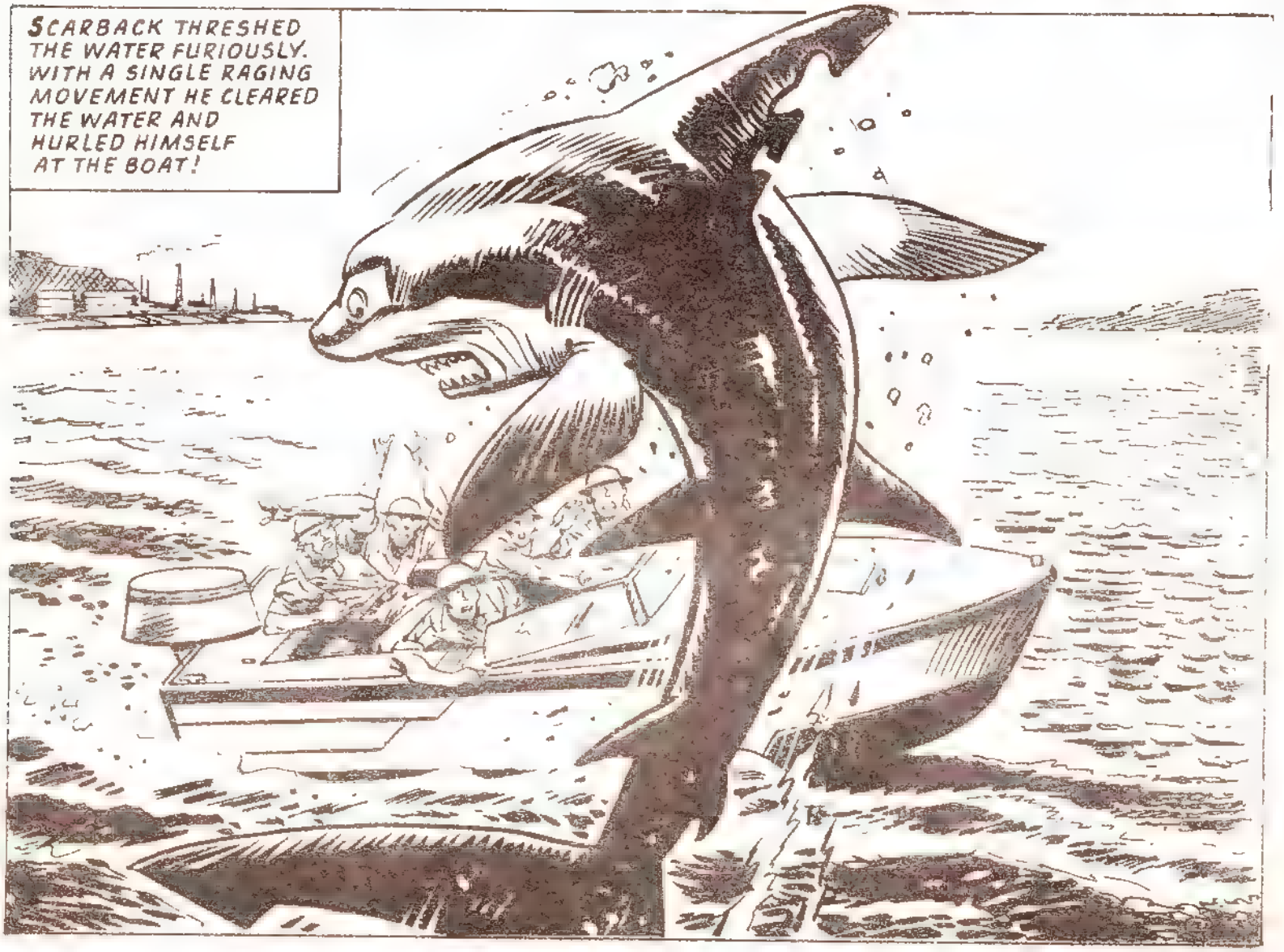

THE LAUNCH, CATARACT, SLID PAST THE HEADLAND— BUT SCARBACK HAD DISAPPEARED.
HE COULD BE ANYWHERE, UNCLE! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START LOOKING!
AND HE WILL NOT BE TAKEN EASILY—NOT AGAIN! HE WILL HAVE LEARNED! I ALSO WISH TO LEARN— HOW HE ESCAPED!


THERE WAS NO SIGN OF LIFE AT ARTHUR P. HELMSTEINER'S PALATIAL HOME...
I SUPPOSE WE'D BETTER WARN THEM, UNCLE! I BET HE'LL BE HOPPING MAD!
HE ANGERS QUICKLY! BUT FIRST I WISH TO SEE THE POOL...
LOUIS EXAMINED THE HUGE SEA DOORS WHICH SHOULD HAVE SEALED OFF THE POOL...
WELL, SCARBACK CERTAINLY DIDN'T OPEN THESE—!
I AGREE... THERE IS ONLY ONE CONCLUSION...
THE SEA-HUNTER SPOKE GRIMLY, HIS EYES HARD AND SUSPICIOUS...
WE MUST FACE THE FACTS — SCARBACK WAS ALLOWED TO ESCAPE!
BUT... BUT WHY'D ANYBODY WANT TO DO THAT?

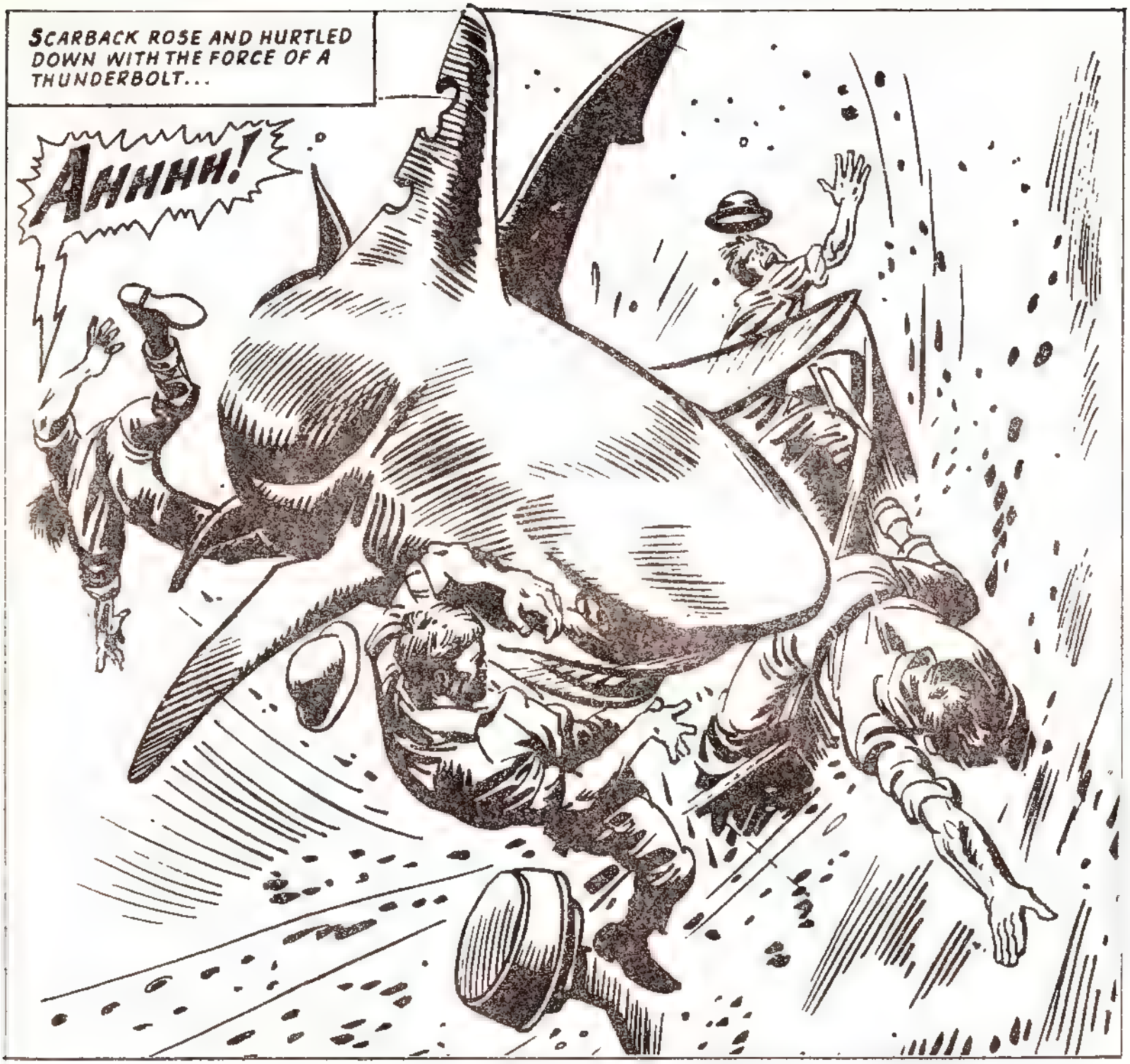
HELMSTEINER SUDDENLY APPEARED OUT OF THE DARKNESS...
WHAT THE HECK'S GOIN' ON? WHAT ARE YOU FOLK DOIN'— AND...
SCARBACK HAS GONE, M'SIEUR! ESCAPED— BUT THAT IS NOT ALL...
SOMEONE ARRANGED THAT HE BE SET FREE! HE COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS ALONE!
WELL, IT AIN'T NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS NOW, BERNARD! I'LL HANDLE THIS PROBLEM MY WAY!
LOUIS PAUSED, CONTROLLING THE ANGER RISING INSIDE HIM...
SCARBACK IS A KILLER— HE WILL WANT REVENGE! IT IS MY CONCERN! I BROUGHT HIM TO THESE WATERS!
YOU MAKE HIM SOUND LIKE SOME KINDA SUPER BRAIN! HE'S JUST A BIG FISH! AND I CAN HIRE GUYS LIKE YOU A DIME A DOZEN TO GET HIM BACK!

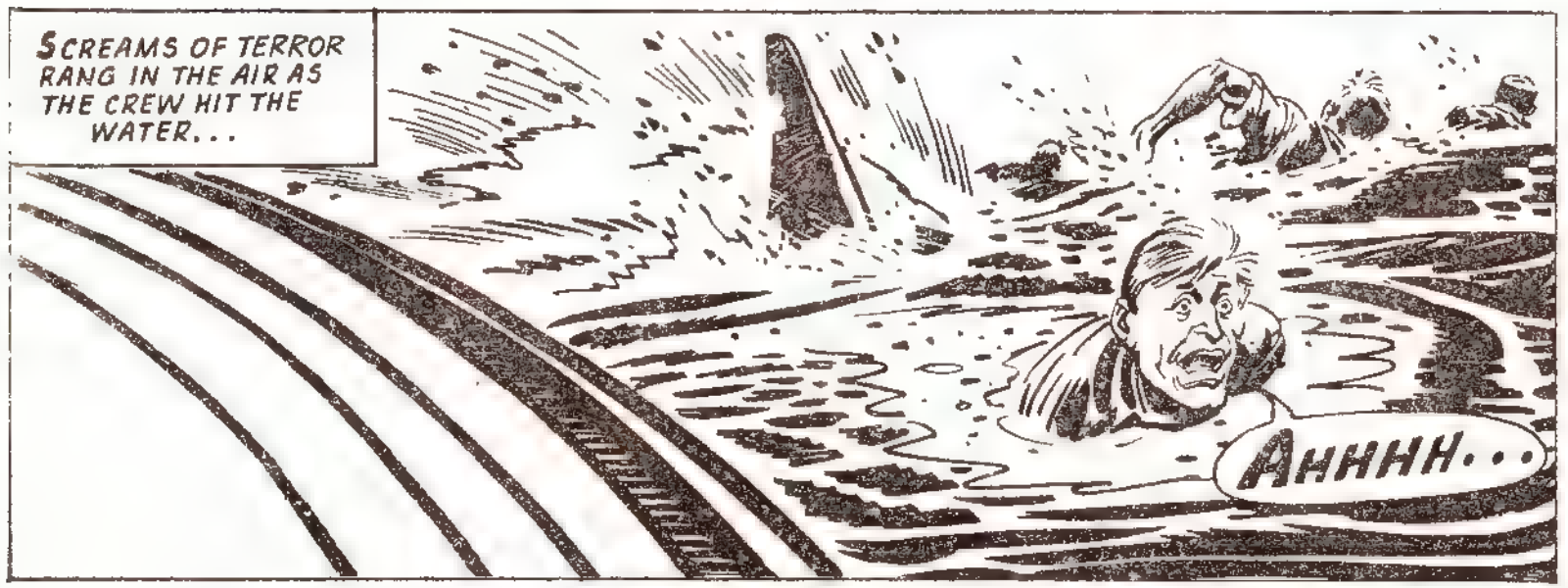

ONLY TWO MILES AWAY SCARBACK WAS EXPLORING HIS NEW TERRITORY...
ON A NEARBY ISLAND AN OIL-RIG CONSTRUCTION TEAM WERE STARTING THEIR DAY...
OKAY, WE'VE GOT THE DRILL! THE BIG BOYS WANT THIS RIG IN ACTION— BEFORE THE DEADLINE RUNS OUT!
WE'LL BE IN TIME, SAM. THE LADS AIN'T GOIN' TO GIVE UP A FAT BONUS!
THESE MEN WERE PART OF A LARGE INVESTMENT IN THE PROJECT. THEY KNEW OF THE REPORTS ABOUT A VAST RESERVOIR OF OIL UNDER THE SEA...
I TELL YOU, I FEEL LUCKY! MAYBE WE'LL MAKE A STRIKE WITH THE FIRST BORE!
COULD BE— SO FAR THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE SMOOTHEST JOBS I'VE EVER BEEN ON! NO SNAGS AT ALL!


BUT AT THAT MOMENT SCARBACK SENSED THE DISTURBANCE IN THE WATER...HIS BLACK FIN STIFFENED ANGRILY...
THE TIGER-SHARK MOVED AT INCREDIBLE SPEED —— ONE AIM IN HIS MIND... ATTACK!
WHAT THE—?
IT—IT'S A SHARK— MAKIN' RIGHT FOR US!

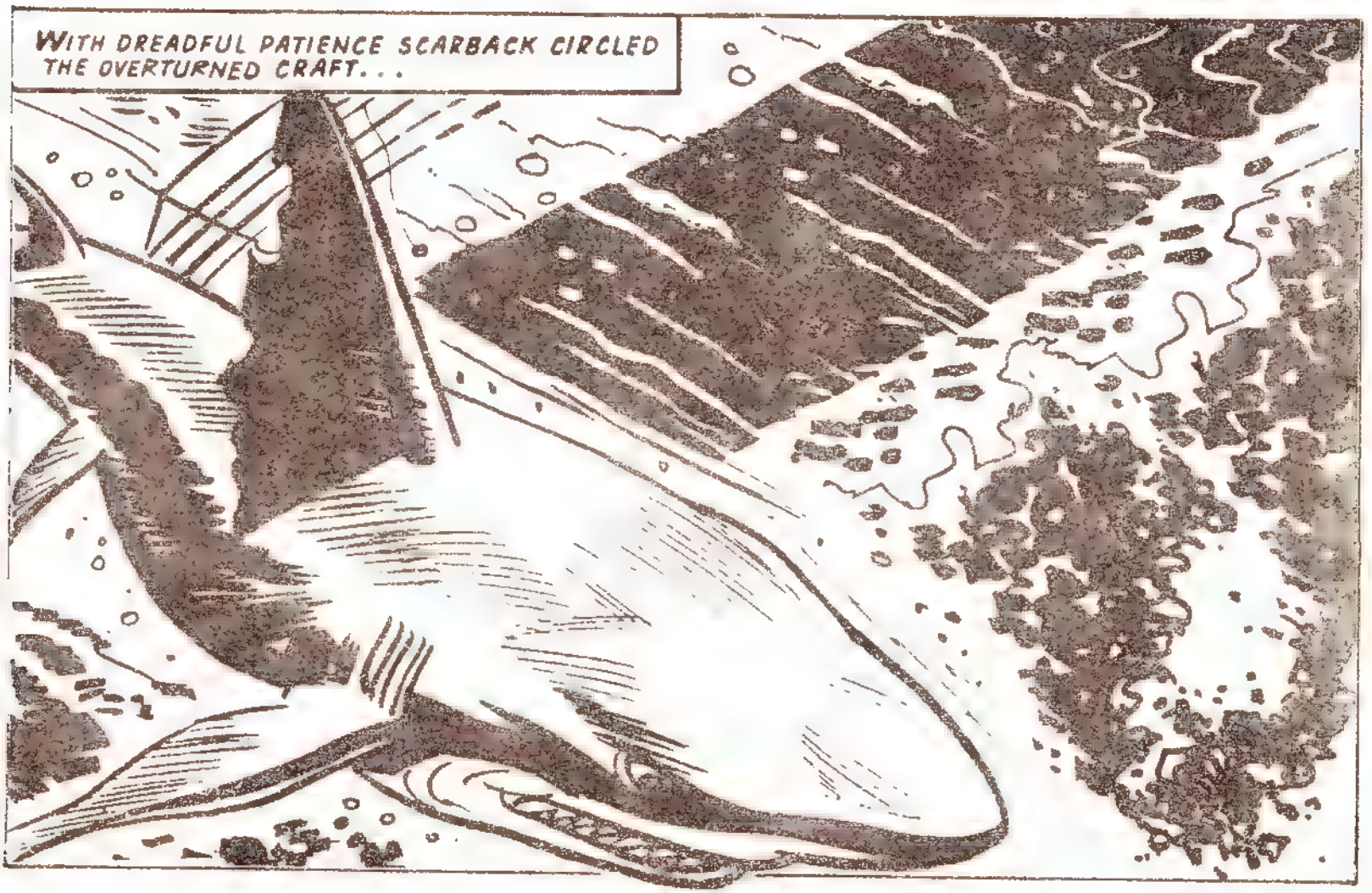

SCARBACK THRESHED THE WATER FURIOUSLY. WITH A SINGLE RAGING MOVEMENT HE CLEARED THE WATER AND HURLED HIMSELF AT THE BOAT!

EAGLE P.L. 5


SCARBACK ROSE AND HURTLED DOWN WITH THE FORCE OF A THUNDERBOLT...
AHHHH!


SCREAMS OF TERROR RANG IN THE AIR AS THE CREW HIT THE WATER...
AHHHH...

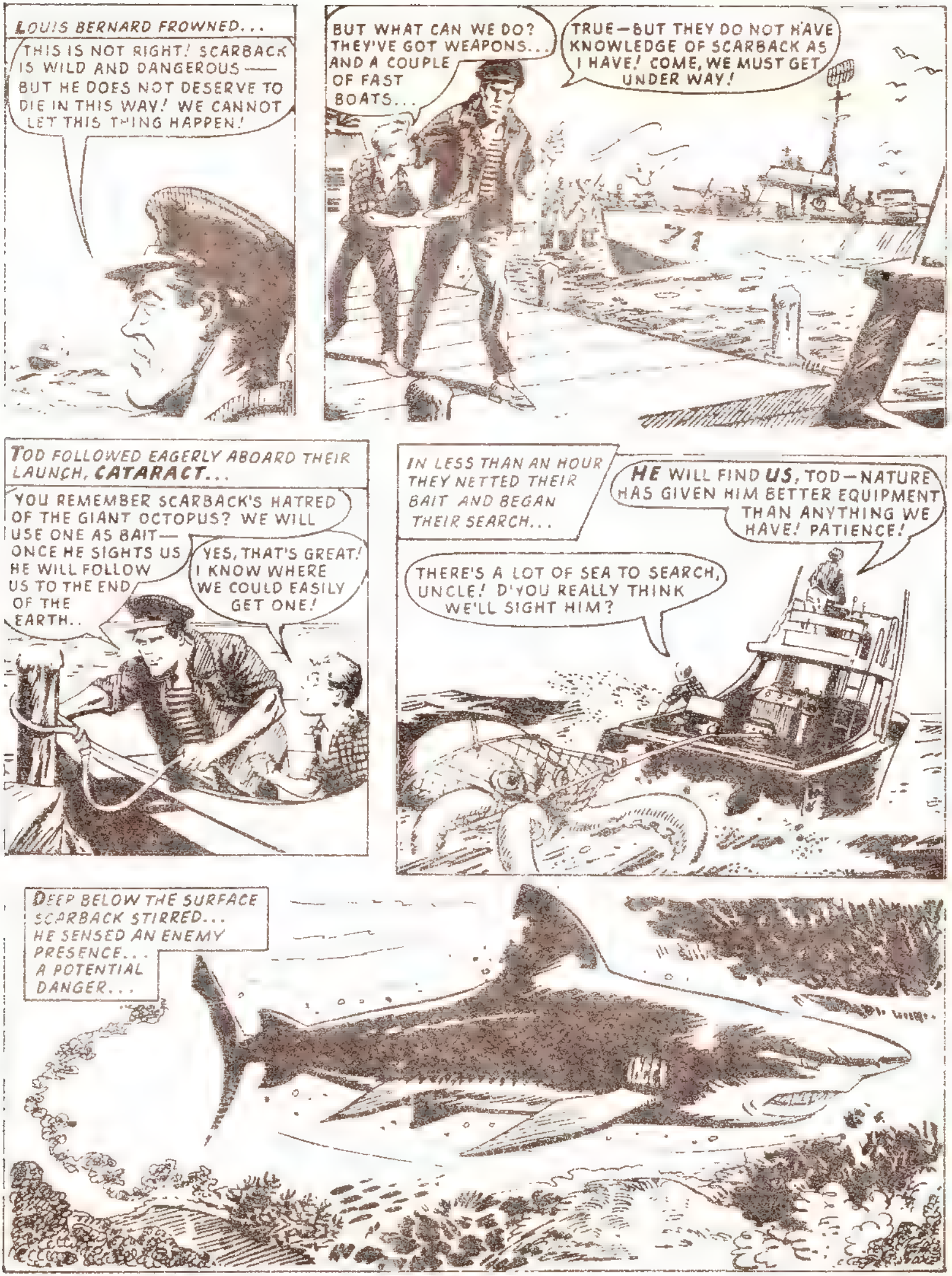
FOR A MOMENT THERE WAS COMPLETE PANIC...

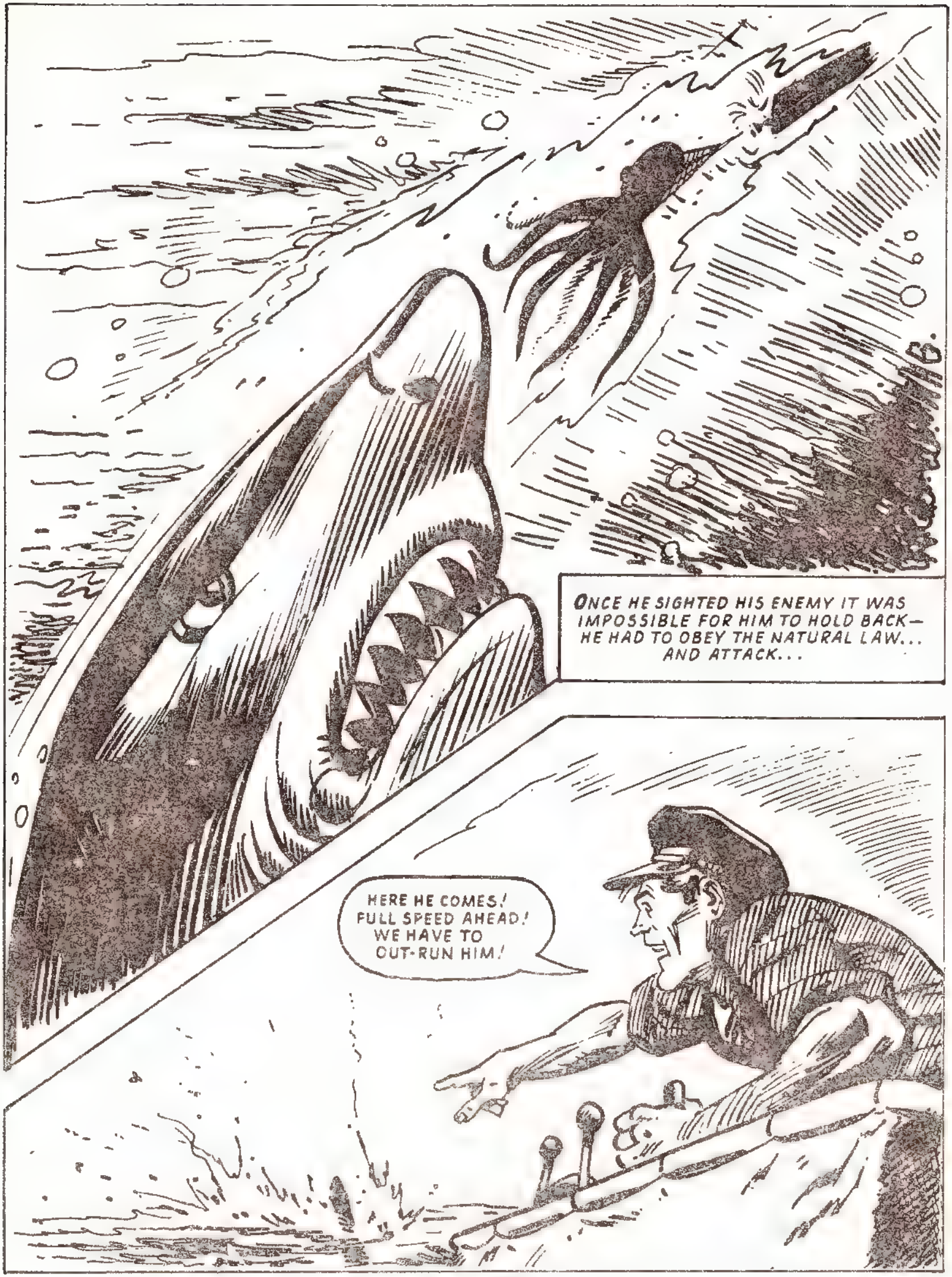

WITH DREADFUL PATIENCE SCARBACK CIRCLED THE OVERTURNED CRAFT...

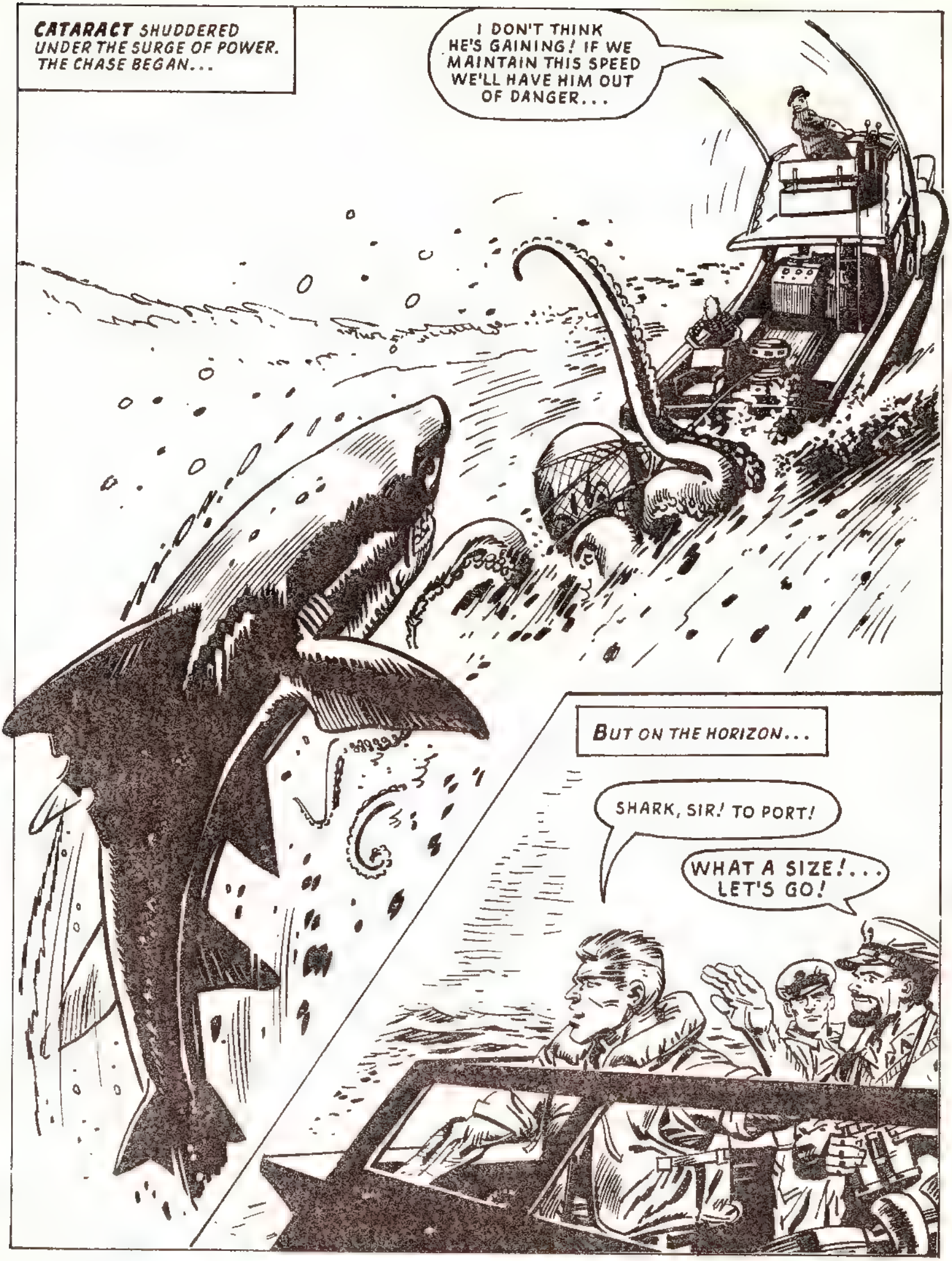
ONLY A COUPLE OF MILES AWAY LOUIS BERNARD WAS QUESTIONING ARTHUR P. HELMSTEINER...
M'SIEUR, SCARBACK WAS ALLOWED TO ESCAPE! WHO WOULD DO THIS— AND WHY?
IT AIN'T NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, BERNARD! YOU DID A JOB AND WERE PAID! THAT'S THE END OF IT!
YOU ARE MISTAKEN! IT IS NOT THE END—PERHAPS IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! COME, TOD—WE HAVE THINGS TO DO!
NOW, SEE HERE, BERNARD—I DON'T LIKE GUYS WHO TRY TO CROSS ME...
ONCE ABOARD CATARACT LOUIS FELT HIS ANGER QUIETEN...
WHAT NOW, UNCLE? DO WE DO WHAT MR. HELMSTEINER SAID AND MAKE FOR HOME?
WE DO NOT! WE MUST FIND SCARBACK—HE WILL BE DANGEROUS NOW... HE WILL NOT FORGET WHAT WAS DONE TO HIM!
LOOK! AN OVERTURNED BOAT! THEY MUST HAVE RUN INTO A STORM!
THERE ARE MEN IN THE WATER!
GENTLY, THEY WERE HAULED ABOARD. ALL OF THEM WERE DAZED AND SHOCKED...
UH-MONSTER SHARK... ATTACKED US... IT-IT WAS WAITIN' FOR US, TILL YOUR BOAT... TURNED UP!
SCARBACK! HE HAS FOUND A TARGET FOR HIS REVENGE!

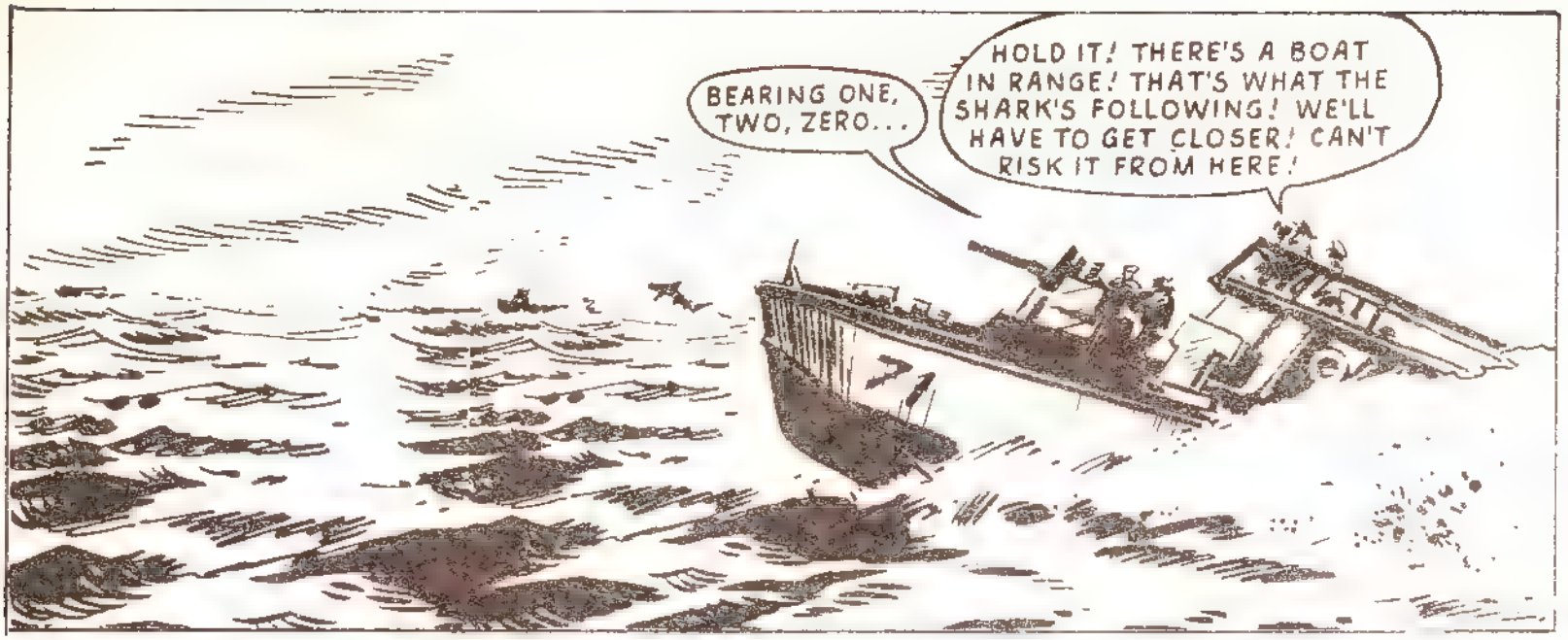
AT THE OIL INSTALLATION...
IT WAS A MIRACLE NONE OF US WERE KILLED!
THESE GUYS WERE SURE LUCKY YOU FOUND THEM!
THE ATMOSPHERE WAS TENSE— THE MEN EDGY, NERVOUS...
OKAY, BOYS! IT'S BEEN ONE HECK OF A DAY! BUT WE'VE STILL GOT A JOB TO DO! LET'S GET TO IT!
YOU MUST BE JOKING! AFTER WHAT HAPPENED HERE? NOTHING DOING!

YOU WOULDN'T GET US OUT ON THAT RIG FOR TREBLE PAY! THERE'S SOME THINGS MONEY CAN'T BUY—LIKE LIFE!
ALL RIGHT! THE COMPANY HAVE A BIG STAKE IN THIS OPERATION! THEY'RE PREPARED TO DO WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO!
TWO EX-NAVAL GUNBOATS ARE ON THEIR WAY HERE! THEIR ORDERS ARE TO BLAST THAT SHARK OUT OF THE WATER! NO MONEY OR EFFORT WILL BE SPARED TO SEE THAT IT'S DONE!
UNCLE, YOU THINK THEY CAN DO IT? GET SCARBACK?
THEY ARE RICH AND DETERMINED. BUT I—I CANNOT STAND BY AND LET THIS HAPPEN! IT IS NOT THE WAY— SCARBACK IS MINE!

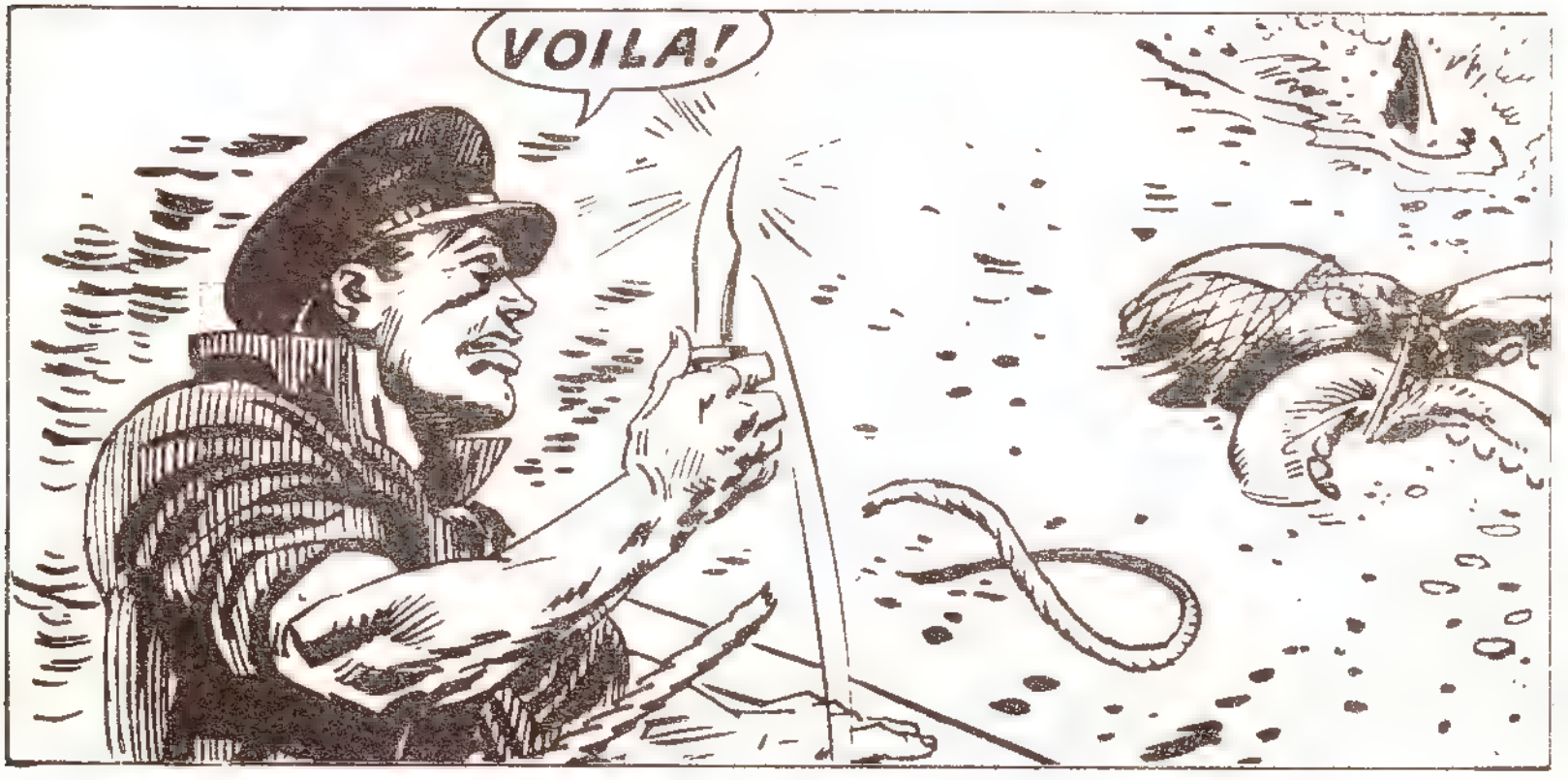

LOUIS BERNARD FROWNED...
THIS IS NOT RIGHT! SCARBACK IS WILD AND DANGEROUS — BUT HE DOES NOT DESERVE TO DIE IN THIS WAY! WE CANNOT LET THIS THING HAPPEN!
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO? THEY'VE GOT WEAPONS... AND A COUPLE OF FAST BOATS...
TRUE—BUT THEY DO NOT HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF SCARBACK AS I HAVE! COME, WE MUST GET UNDER WAY!
TOD FOLLOWED EAGERLY ABOARD THEIR LAUNCH, CATARACT...
YOU REMEMBER SCARBACK'S HATRED OF THE GIANT OCTOPUS? WE WILL USE ONE AS BAIT— ONCE HE SIGHTS US HE WILL FOLLOW US TO THE END OF THE EARTH..
YES, THAT'S GREAT! I KNOW WHERE WE COULD EASILY GET ONE!
IN LESS THAN AN HOUR THEY NETTED THEIR BAIT AND BEGAN THEIR SEARCH...
HE WILL FIND US, TOD—NATURE HAS GIVEN HIM BETTER EQUIPMENT THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE! PATIENCE!
THERE'S A LOT OF SEA TO SEARCH, UNCLE! D'YOU REALLY THINK WE'LL SIGHT HIM?
DEEP BELOW THE SURFACE SCARBACK STIRRED... HE SENSED AN ENEMY PRESENCE... A POTENTIAL DANGER...


ONCE HE SIGHTED HIS ENEMY IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO HOLD BACK— HE HAD TO OBEY THE NATURAL LAW... AND ATTACK...
HERE HE COMES! FULL SPEED AHEAD! WE HAVE TO OUT-RUN HIM!

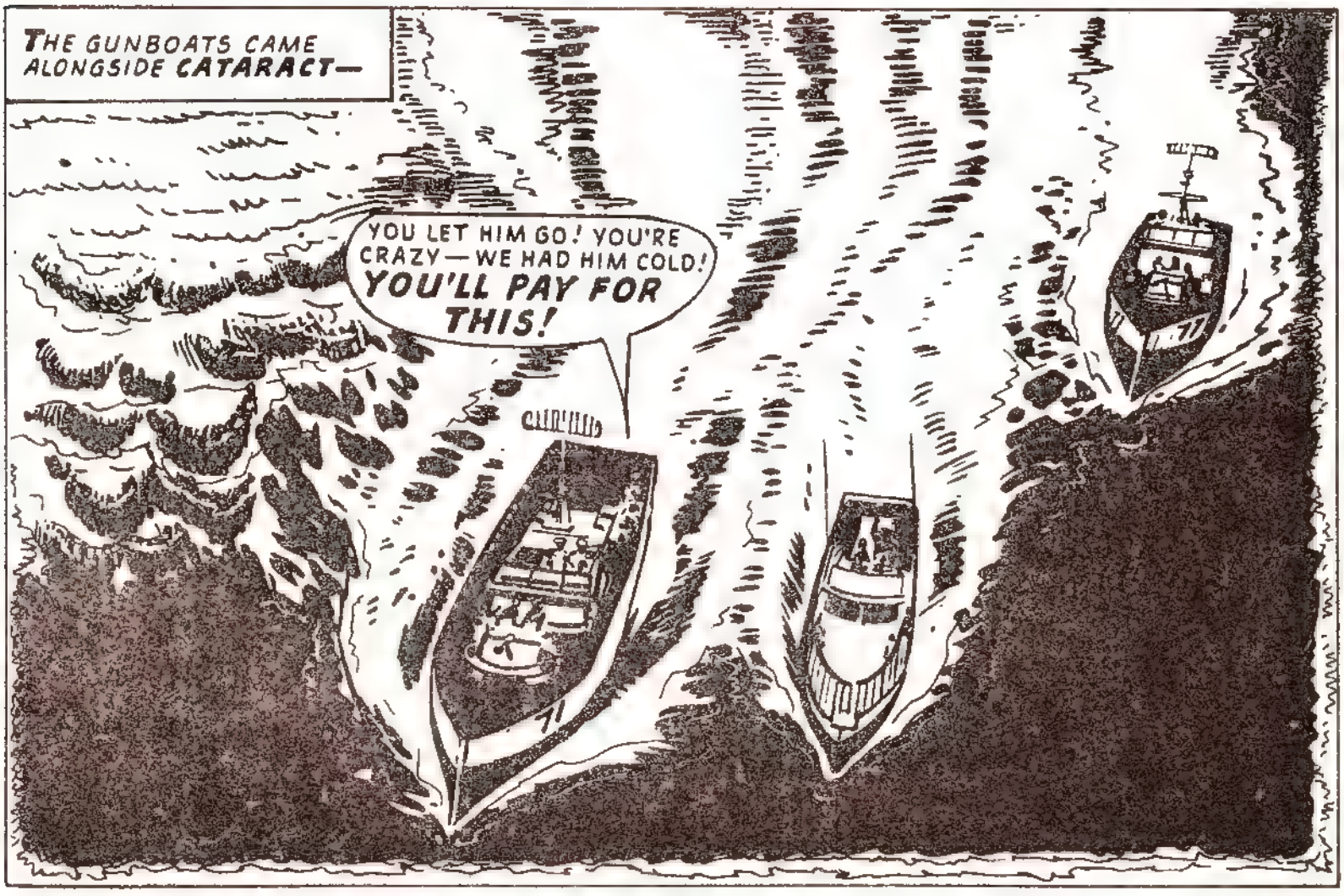

CATARACT SHUDDERED UNDER THE SURGE OF POWER. THE CHASE BEGAN...
I DON'T THINK HE'S GAINING! IF WE MAINTAIN THIS SPEED WE'LL HAVE HIM OUT OF DANGER...
BUT ON THE HORIZON...
SHARK, SIR! TO PORT!
WHAT A SIZE!... LET'S GO!

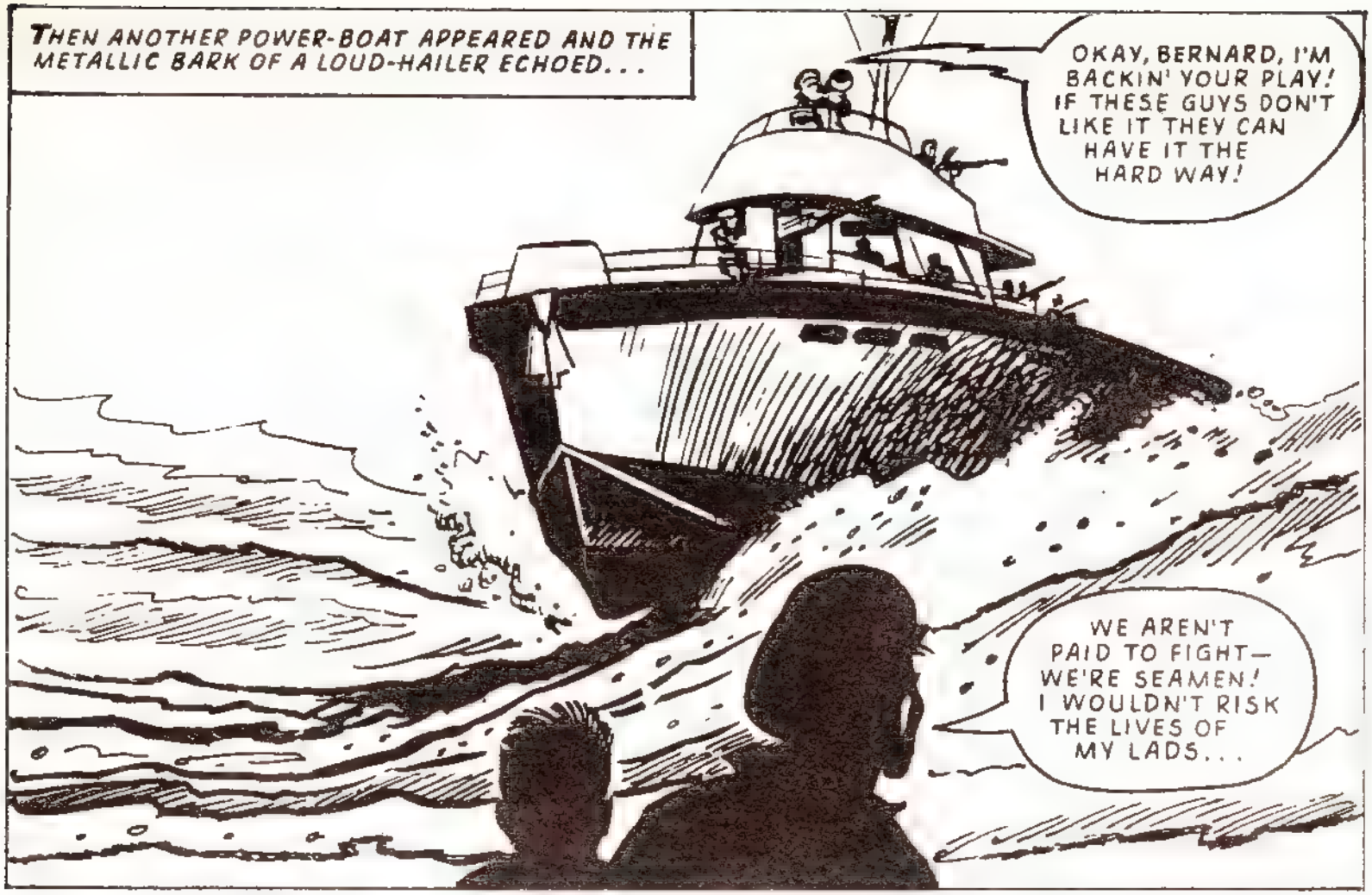

BEARING ONE, TWO, ZERO...
HOLD IT! THERE'S A BOAT IN RANGE! THAT'S WHAT THE SHARK'S FOLLOWING! WE'LL HAVE TO GET CLOSER! CAN'T RISK IT FROM HERE!
71

THEY HAVE US LICKED FOR SPEED! WE'VE GOT TO GET SCARBACK CLEAR!
WE WON'T LEAVE UNTIL HE HAS ATTACKED THE OCTOPUS! WE HAVE NO CHOICE... ONLY ONE THING TO DO...


VOILA!

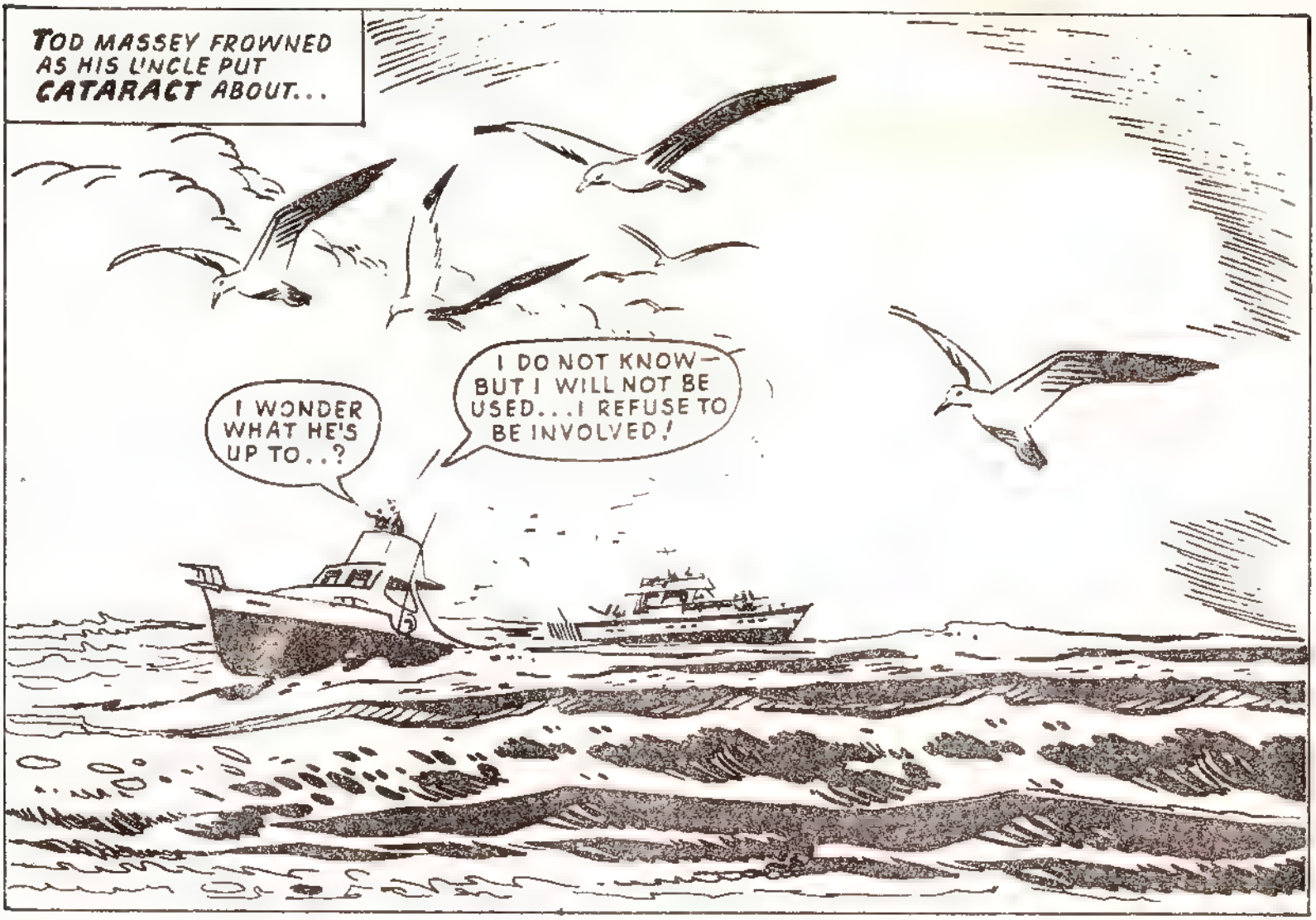
SCARBACK CLOSED TRIUMPHANTLY—BEARING HIS ENEMY DOWN TO THE DARK SAFETY OF THE OCEAN BED...

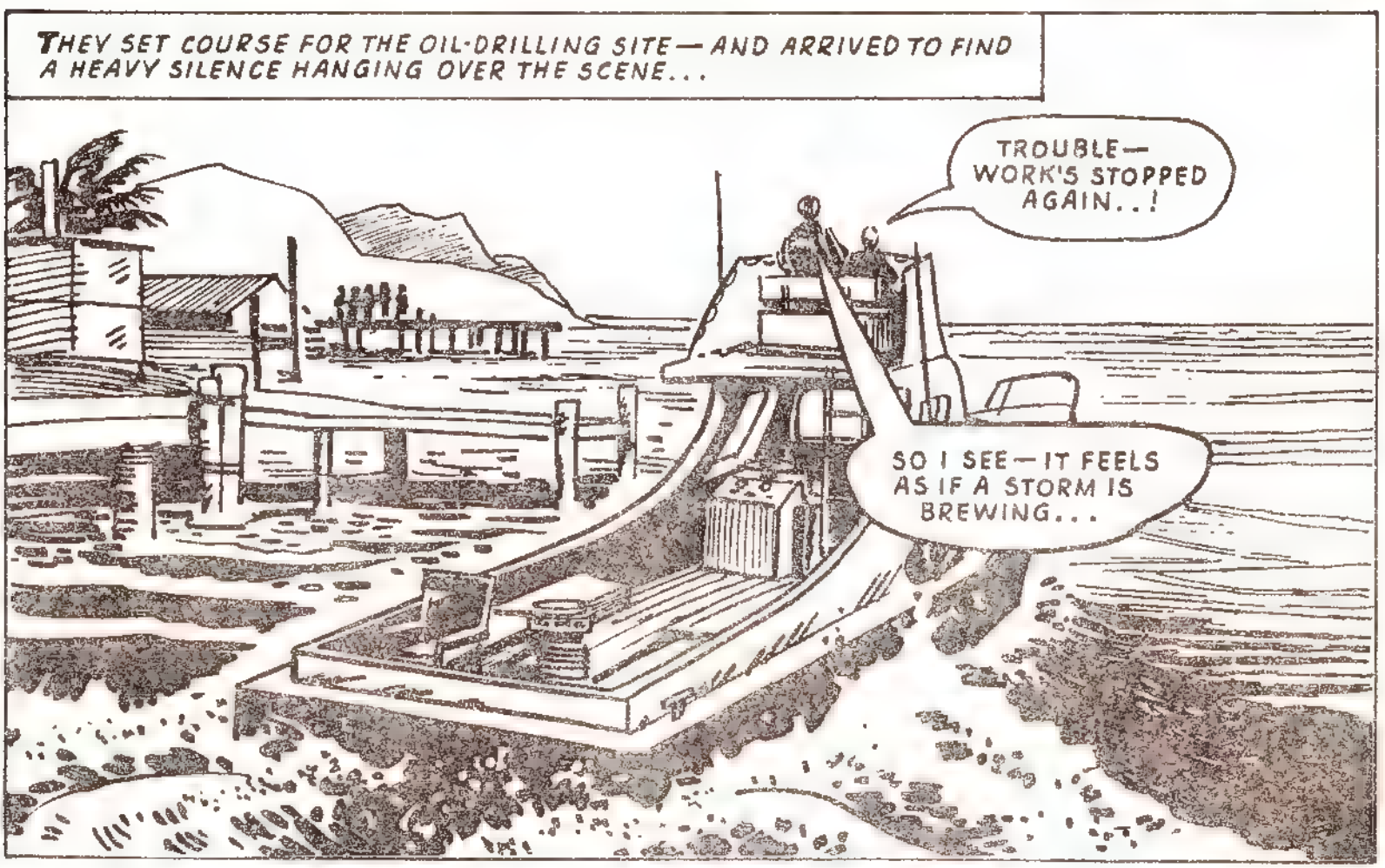

THE GUNBOATS CAME ALONGSIDE CATARACT—
YOU LET HIM GO! YOU'RE CRAZY—WE HAD HIM COLD! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!


THEN ANOTHER POWER-BOAT APPEARED AND THE METALLIC BARK OF A LOUD-HAILER ECHOED...
OKAY, BERNARD, I'M BACKIN' YOUR PLAY! IF THESE GUYS DON'T LIKE IT THEY CAN HAVE IT THE HARD WAY!
WE AREN'T PAID TO FIGHT— WE'RE SEAMEN! I WOULDN'T RISK THE LIVES OF MY LADS...

THE GUNBOATS TURNED AWAY...
M'SIEUR, I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN FOR SCARBACK— IT IS A SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART!
YEAH, MEBBE IT IS. ANYWAY, YOU'RE DOIN' FINE! RECKON I MIGHT HAND YOU A BONUS... A WAD OF THE GREEN STUFF!

I DO NOT WANT YOUR MONEY, I NO LONGER WORK FOR YOU! I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOUR INTEREST IS, BUT I DO KNOW THAT I DO NOT LIKE IT...
OKAY! THERE AIN'T MUCH YOU CAN DO THEN, UH? KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, BERNARD. I LIKE THE WAY YOU PROTECT MY INTERESTS!


TOD MASSEY FROWNED AS HIS UNCLE PUT CATARACT ABOUT...
I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO..?
I DO NOT KNOW— BUT I WILL NOT BE USED...I REFUSE TO BE INVOLVED!

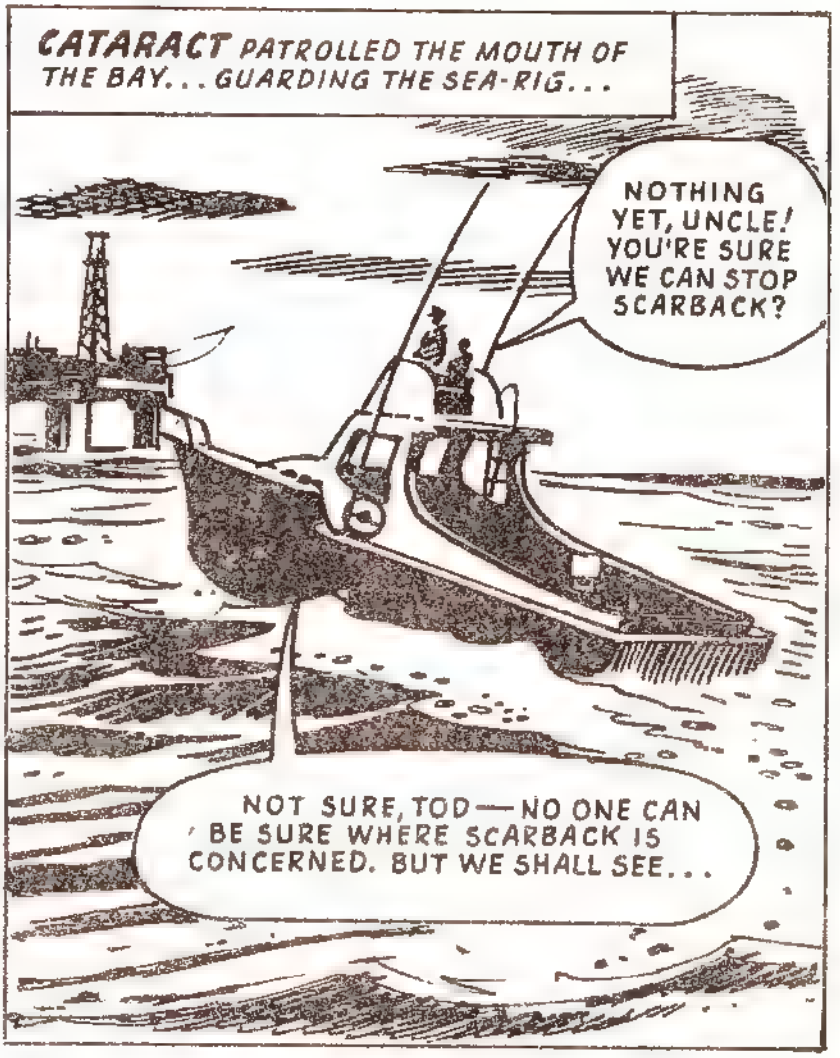

THEY SET COURSE FOR THE OIL-DRILLING SITE— AND ARRIVED TO FIND A HEAVY SILENCE HANGING OVER THE SCENE...
TROUBLE— WORK'S STOPPED AGAIN..!
SO I SEE— IT FEELS AS IF A STORM IS BREWING...

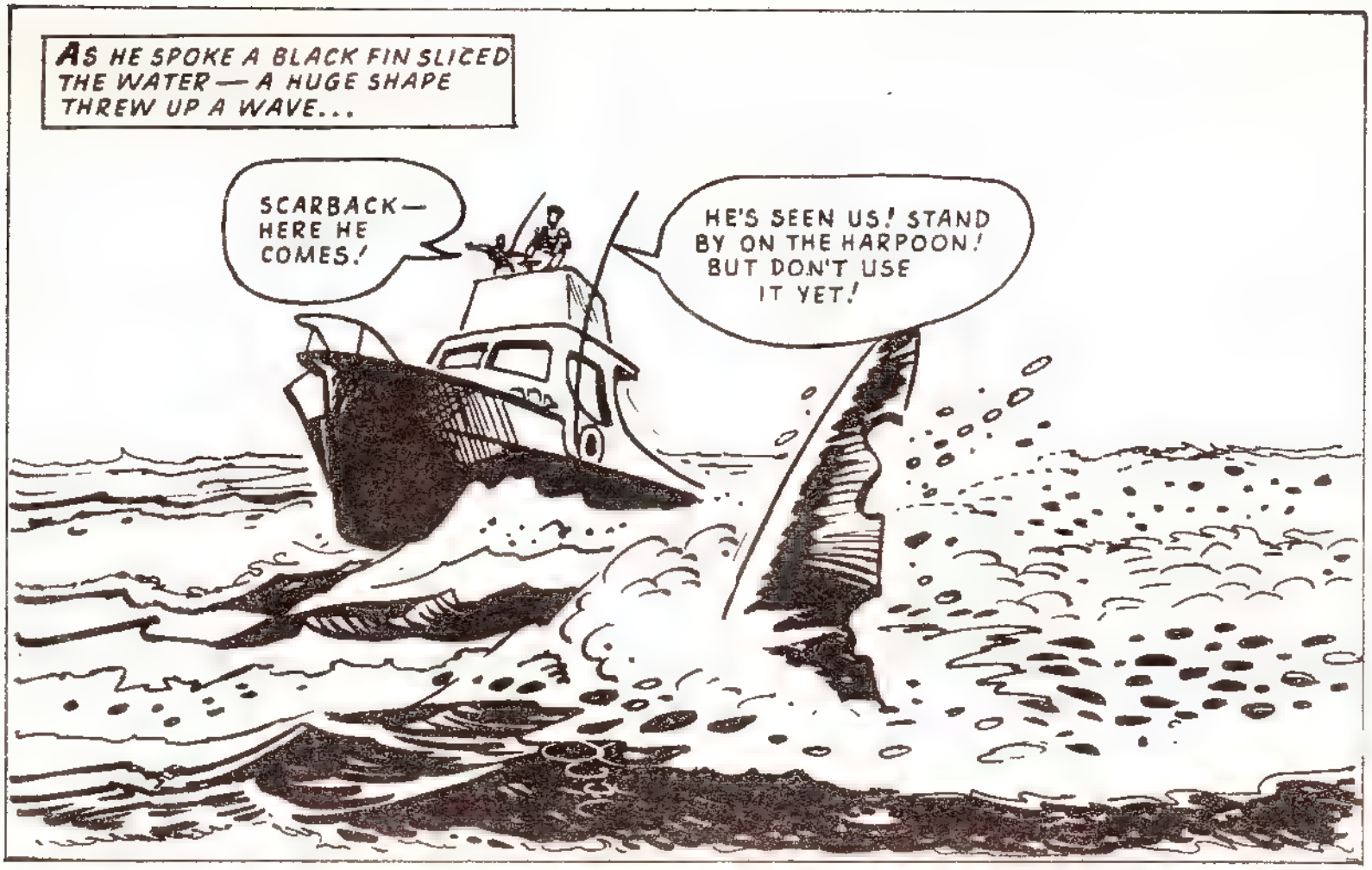
I'M BILL DANIELS, GANG BOSS! I WANT A WORD WITH YOU— THE GENIUS WHO FOULED UP THE SHARK-OPERATION!
I AM AT YOUR SERVICE, M'SIEUR!
LOOK, I'VE GOT A GANG OF MEN IDLE AND A DEADLINE TO MEET! THAT DARNED SHARK'S RUINING US!
I AM SORRY— I DO NOT SEE WHAT I CAN DO...

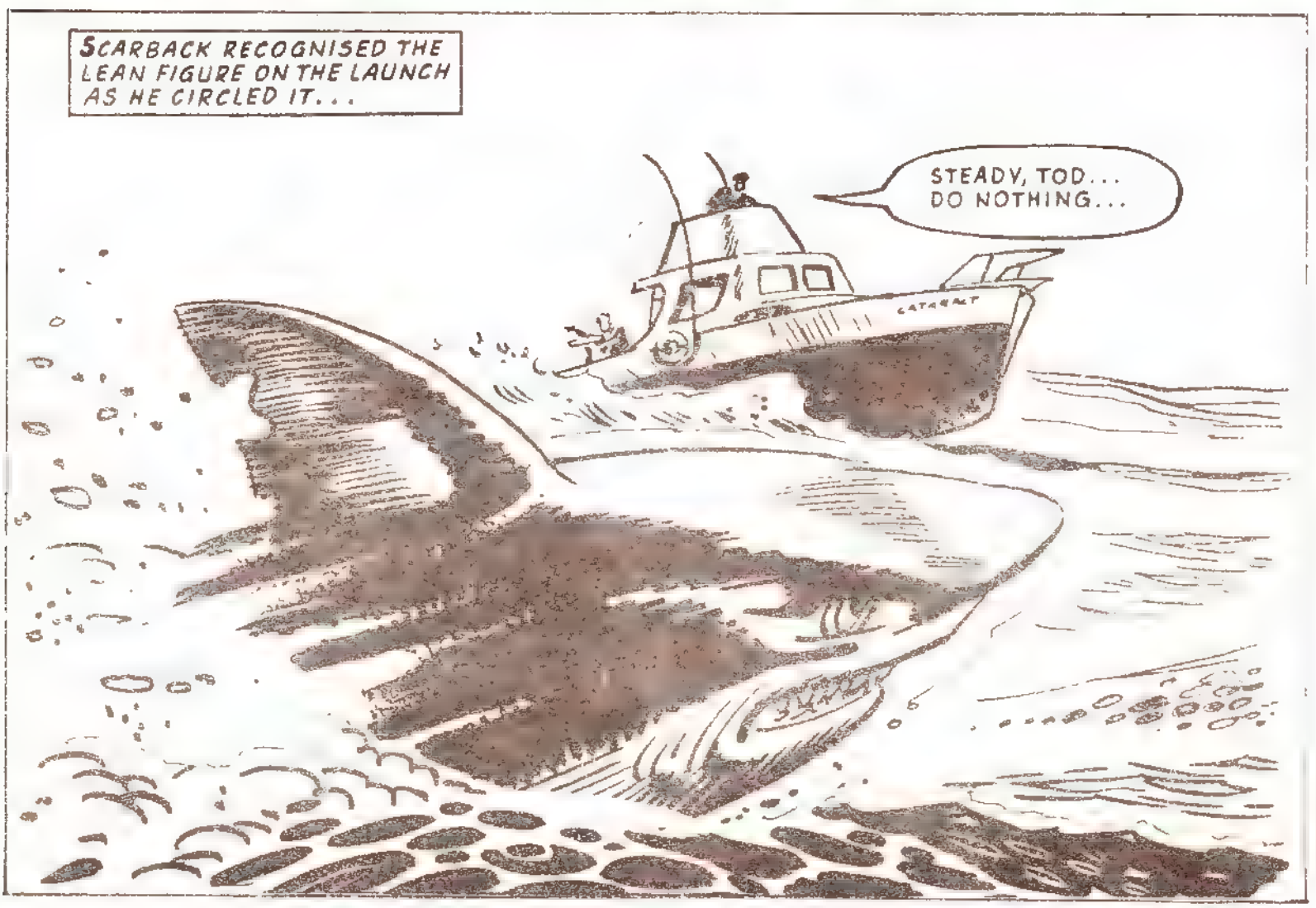
GET LOST, KEEP OUT OF OUR HAIR! IF WE DON'T STRIKE OIL IN 24 HOURS WE LOSE THE OPTION TO DRILL! THE COMPANY LOSES A FORTUNE AND WE LOSE OUR JOBS! WE'RE NOT PLAYING GAMES!
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT... PERHAPS THERE IS A WAY...

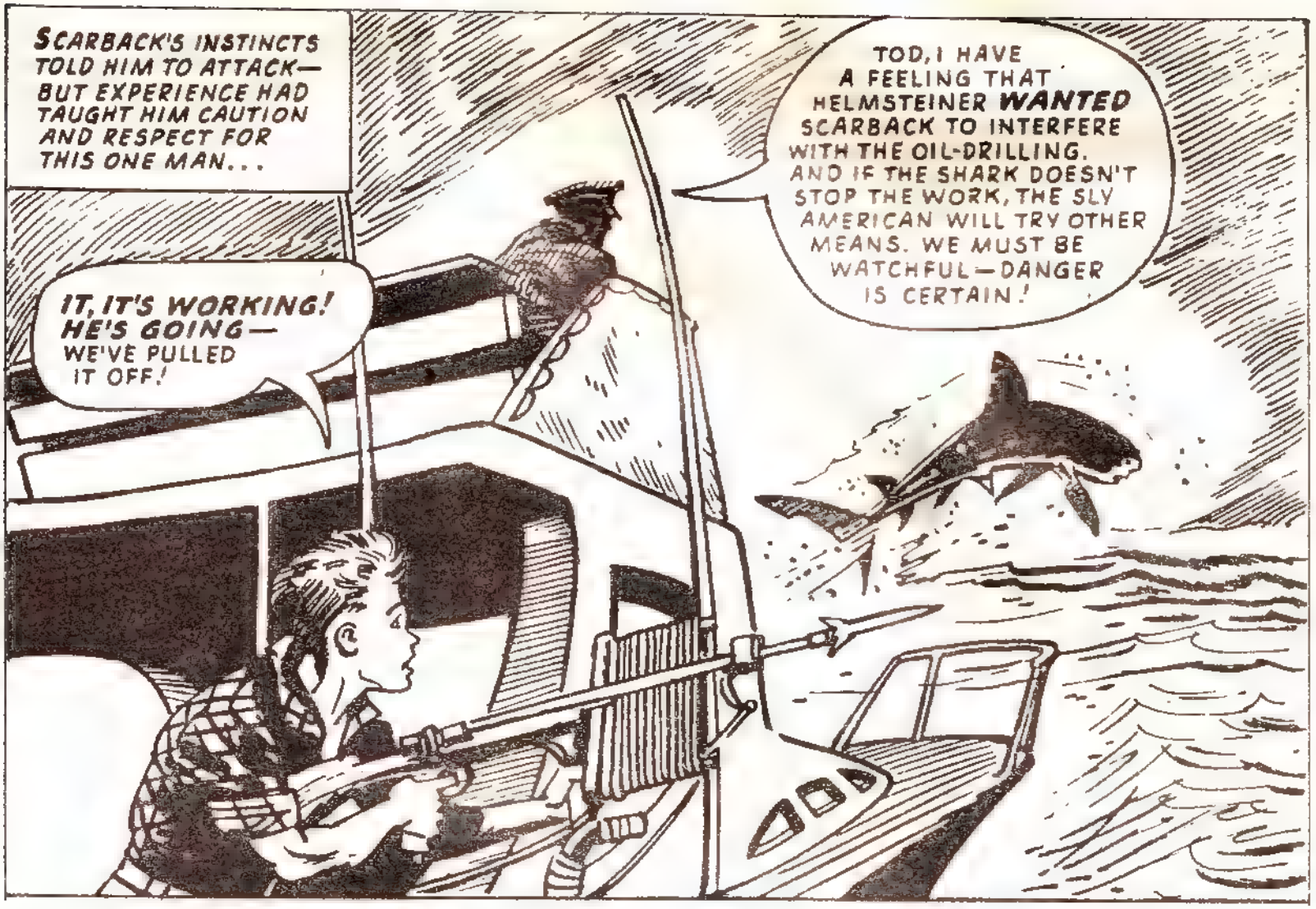
IF I GUARD THE BAY I WILL GUARANTEE THAT SCARBACK WILL NOT ATTACK! YOUR MEN WILL BE ABLE TO WORK IN SAFETY!
YOU GUARANTEE THAT? ON YOUR OWN..? I DON'T KNOW...

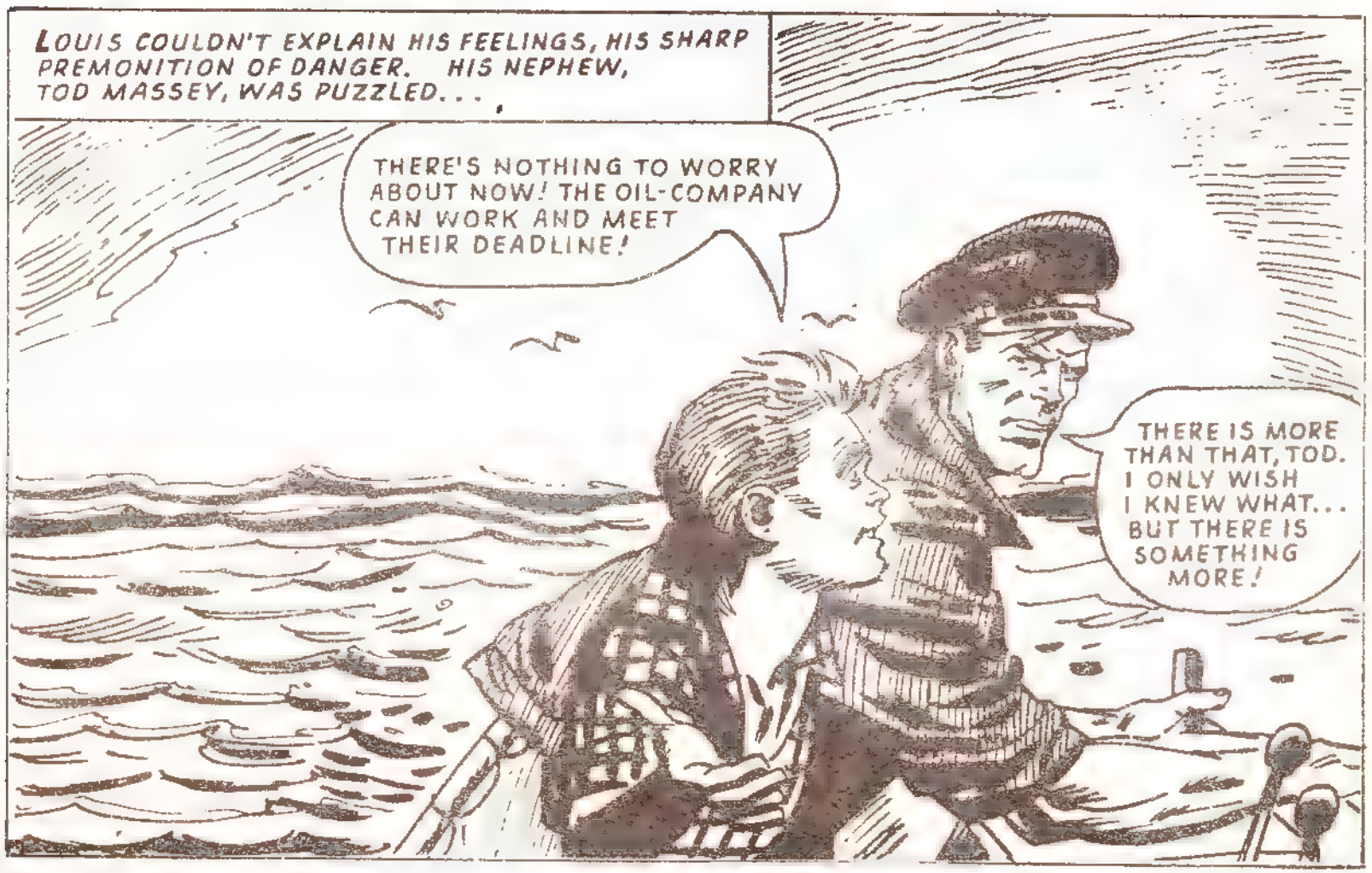
GOOD, YOU CAN ASSURE YOUR MEN IT IS SAFE! TOD, LET US GO...
YEAH! I RECKON YOU CAN DO IT! IT'S A DEAL...


CATARACT PATROLLED THE MOUTH OF THE BAY... GUARDING THE SEA-RIG...
NOTHING YET, UNCLE! YOU'RE SURE WE CAN STOP SCARBACK?
NOT SURE, TOD — NO ONE CAN BE SURE WHERE SCARBACK IS CONCERNED. BUT WE SHALL SEE...

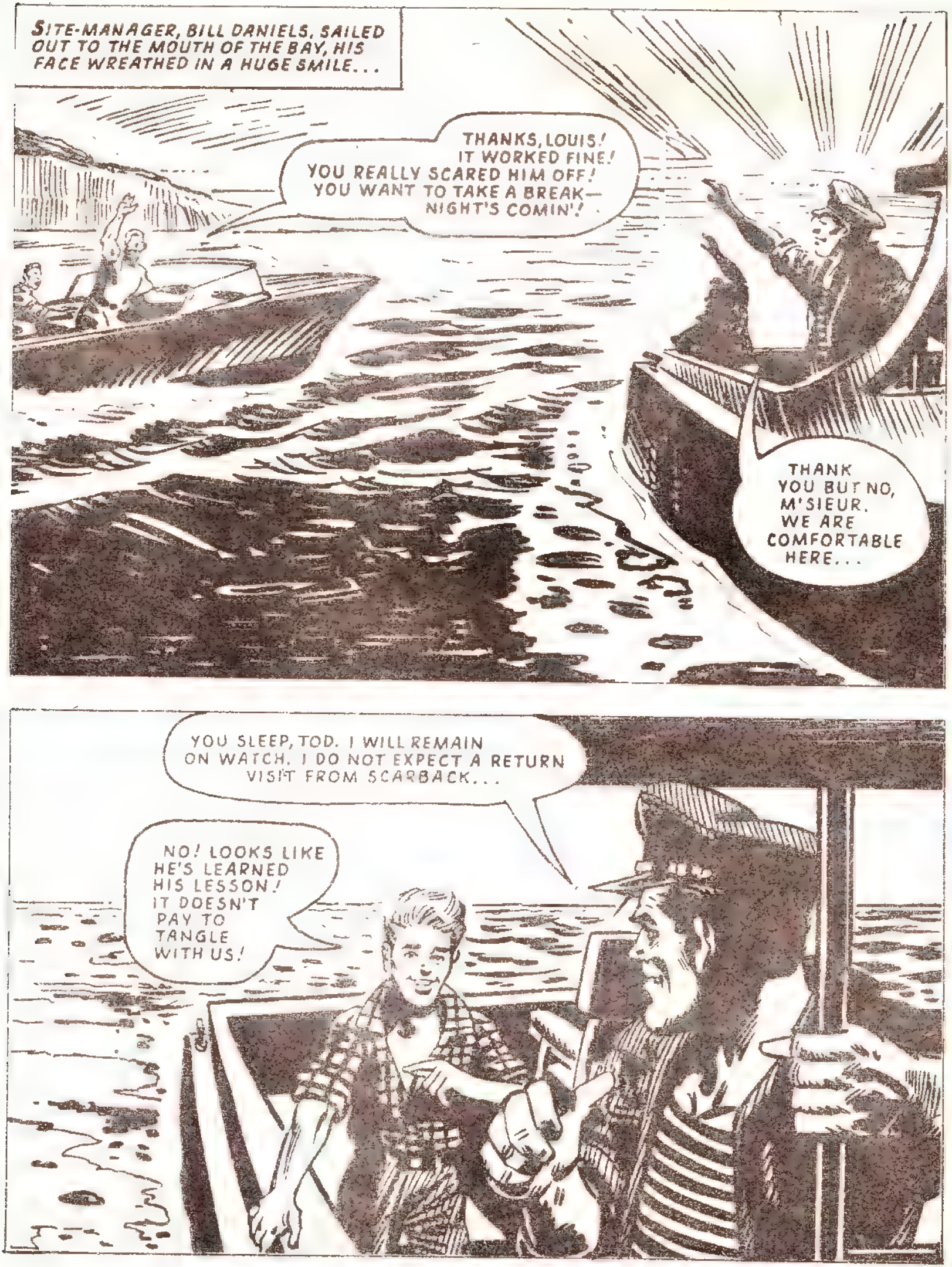

AS HE SPOKE A BLACK FIN SLICED THE WATER — A HUGE SHAPE THREW UP A WAVE...
SCARBACK— HERE HE COMES!
HE'S SEEN US! STAND BY ON THE HARPOON! BUT DON'T USE IT YET!

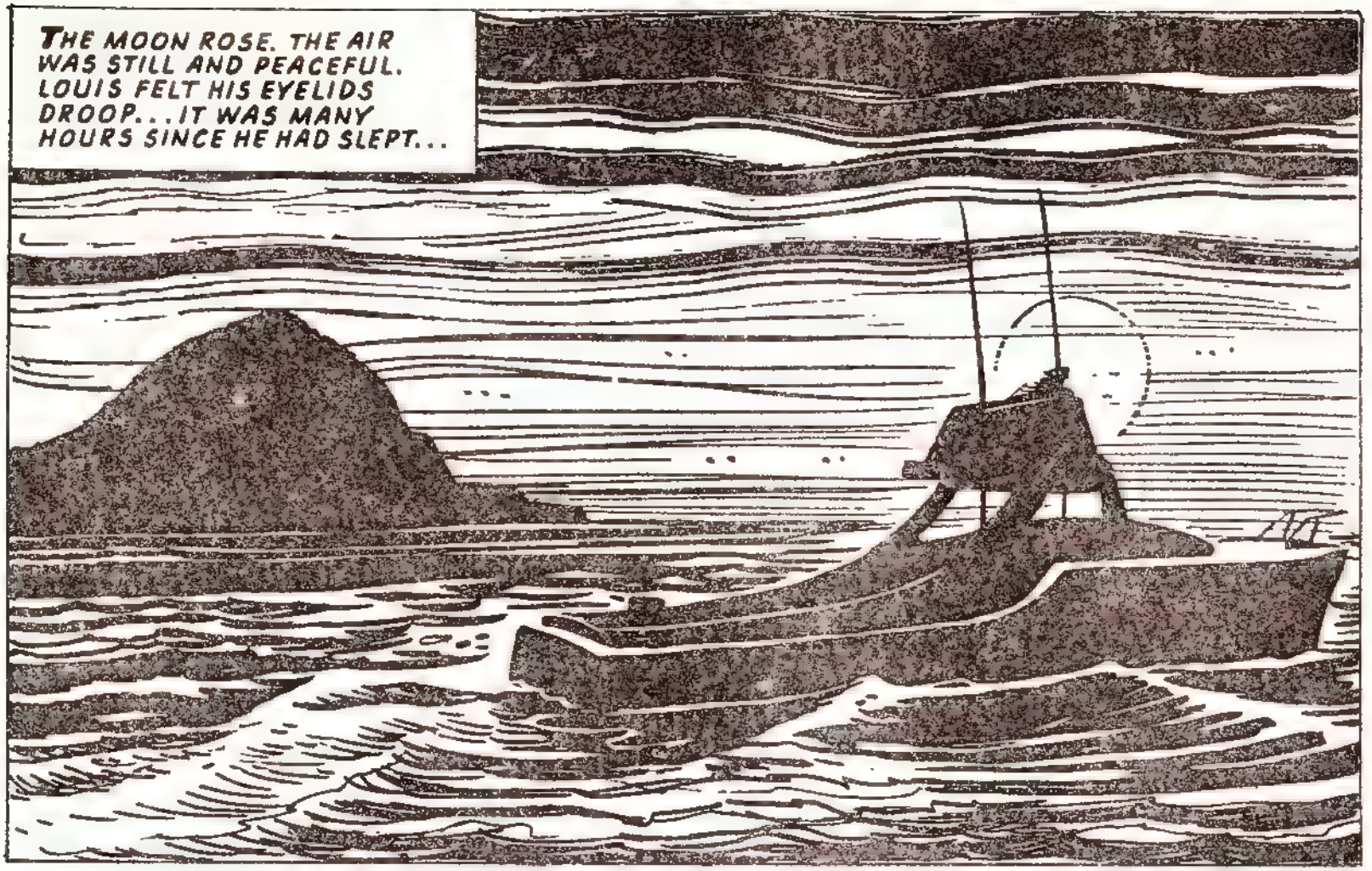

SCARBACK RECOGNISED THE LEAN FIGURE ON THE LAUNCH AS HE CIRCLED IT...
STEADY, TOD... DO NOTHING...

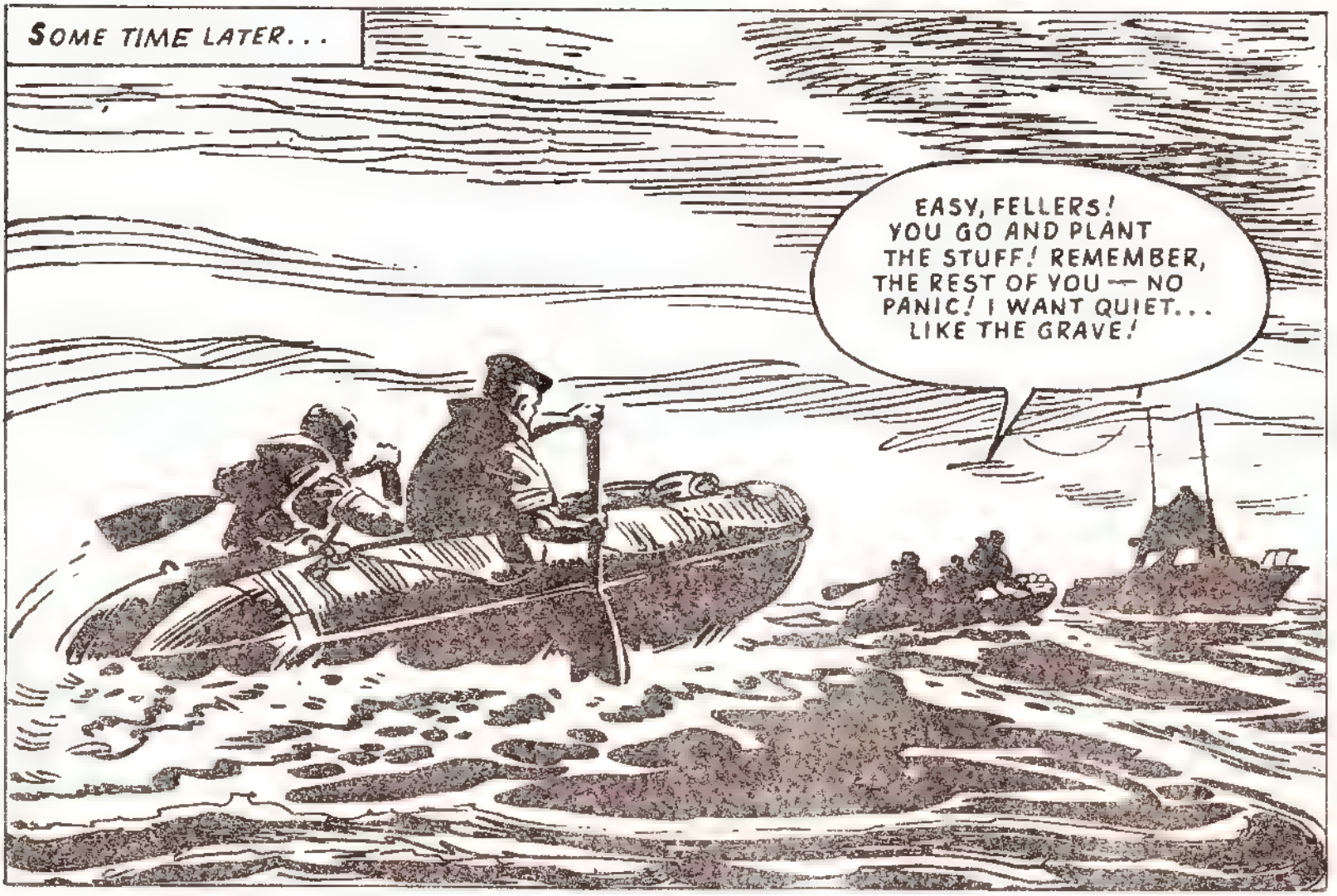

SCARBACK'S INSTINCTS TOLD HIM TO ATTACK— BUT EXPERIENCE HAD TAUGHT HIM CAUTION AND RESPECT FOR THIS ONE MAN...
TOD, I HAVE A FEELING THAT HELMSTEINER WANTED SCARBACK TO INTERFERE WITH THE OIL-DRILLING. AND IF THE SHARK DOESN'T STOP THE WORK, THE SLY AMERICAN WILL TRY OTHER MEANS. WE MUST BE WATCHFUL—DANGER IS CERTAIN!
IT, IT'S WORKING! HE'S GOING— WE'VE PULLED IT OFF!


LOUIS COULDN'T EXPLAIN HIS FEELINGS, HIS SHARP PREMONITION OF DANGER. HIS NEPHEW, TOD MASSEY, WAS PUZZLED...
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW! THE OIL-COMPANY CAN WORK AND MEET THEIR DEADLINE!
THERE IS MORE THAN THAT, TOD. I ONLY WISH I KNEW WHAT... BUT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE!

A MILE AWAY, ARTHUR P. HELMSTEINER GRUNTED ANGRILY...
THAT NUT, BERNARD, HE'S HELPING THEM OIL-DRILLERS! THE BIG SHARK AIN'T NO THREAT WITH HIM AROUND!
THAT'S BAD, BOSS. THAT MONSTER'S SUPPOSED TO BE OUR ACE CARD!
RIGHT! SO WE REMOVE BERNARD AND HIS SIDEKICK! THE TIME'S COME TO TAKE OFF THE GLOVES. NOW, JUST LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY... THIS IS ONE SWEET SCHEME...


SITE-MANAGER, BILL DANIELS, SAILED OUT TO THE MOUTH OF THE BAY, HIS FACE WREATHED IN A HUGE SMILE...
THANKS, LOUIS! IT WORKED FINE! YOU REALLY SCARED HIM OFF! YOU WANT TO TAKE A BREAK— NIGHT'S COMIN'!
THANK YOU BUT NO, M'SIEUR. WE ARE COMFORTABLE HERE...
YOU SLEEP, TOD. I WILL REMAIN ON WATCH. I DO NOT EXPECT A RETURN VISIT FROM SCARBACK...
NO! LOOKS LIKE HE'S LEARNED HIS LESSON! IT DOESN'T PAY TO TANGLE WITH US!

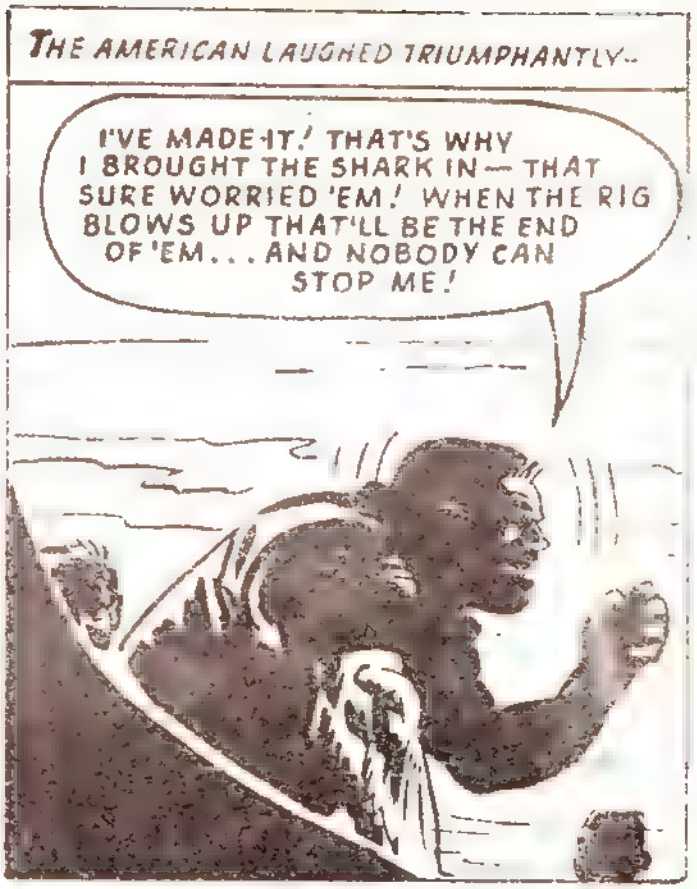

THE MOON ROSE. THE AIR WAS STILL AND PEACEFUL. LOUIS FELT HIS EYELIDS DROOP... IT WAS MANY HOURS SINCE HE HAD SLEPT...

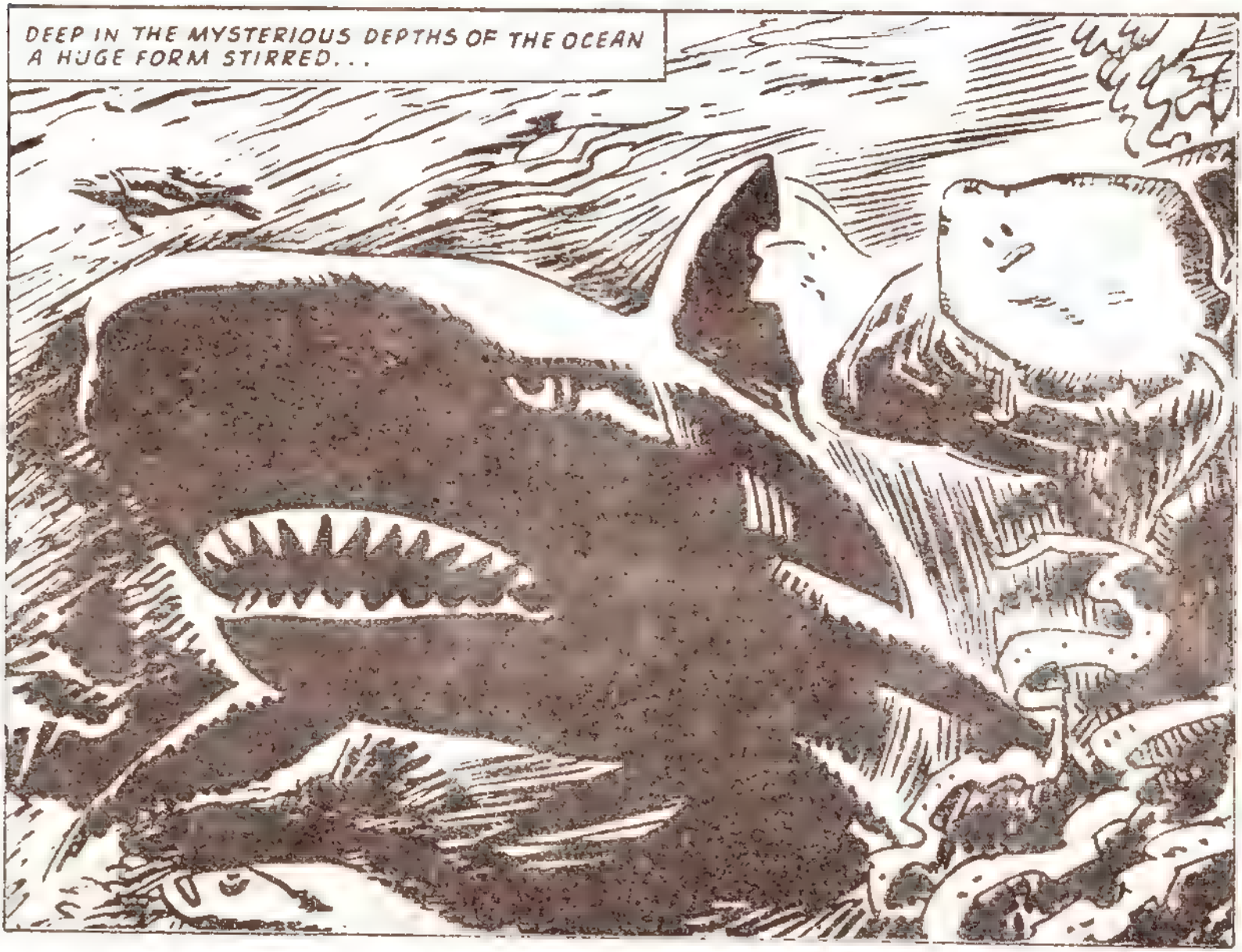

SOME TIME LATER...
EASY, FELLERS! YOU GO AND PLANT THE STUFF! REMEMBER, THE REST OF YOU — NO PANIC! I WANT QUIET... LIKE THE GRAVE!

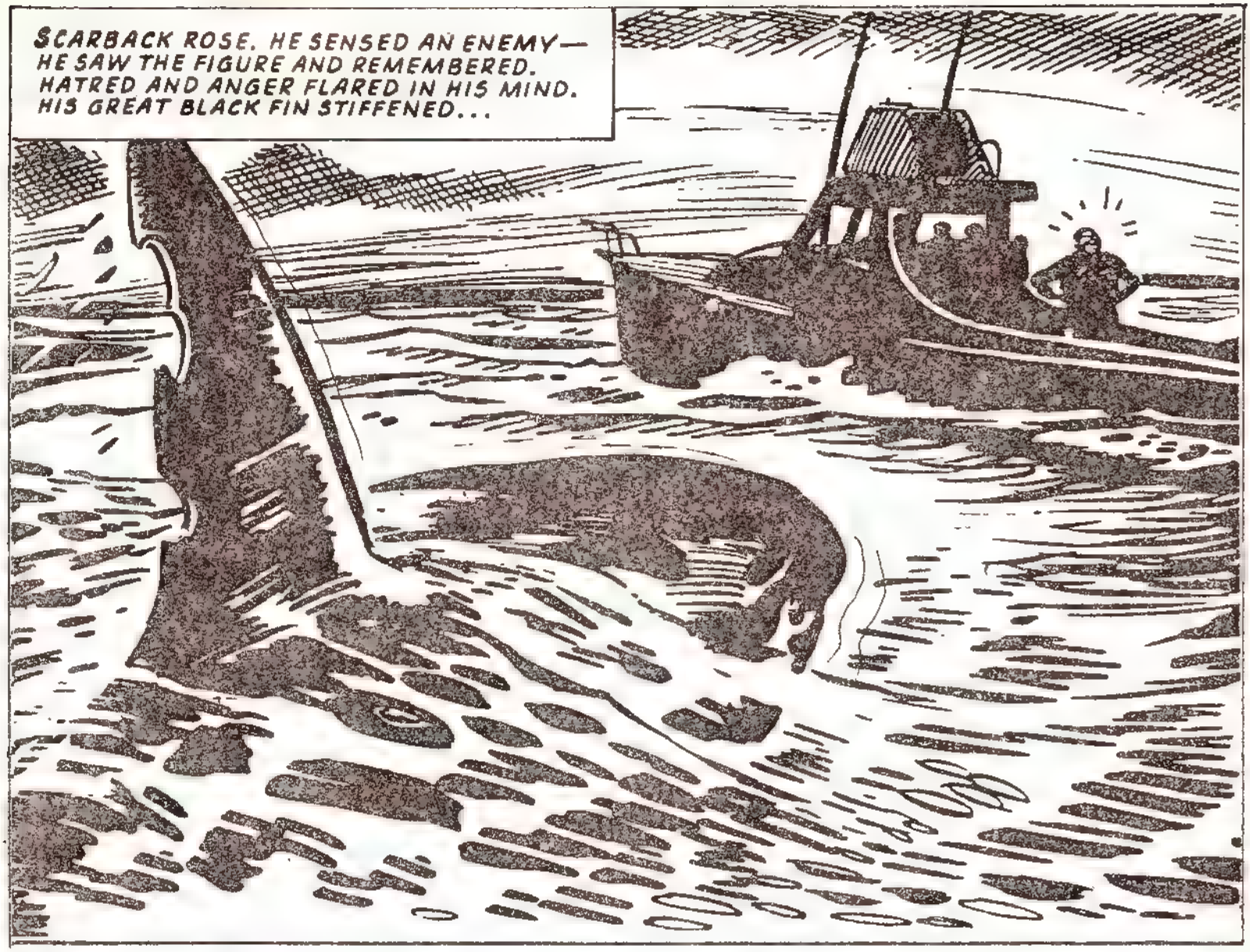
DARK FIGURES SWARMED ABOARD. THE FIRST LOUIS KNEW OF THEM WAS ROUGH HANDS PINNING HIM DOWN...
HELMSTEINER!
YEAH, ME! OKAY, GRAB THE KID AND START THEM ENGINES! WE'RE GONNA TAKE A LITTLE TRIP!

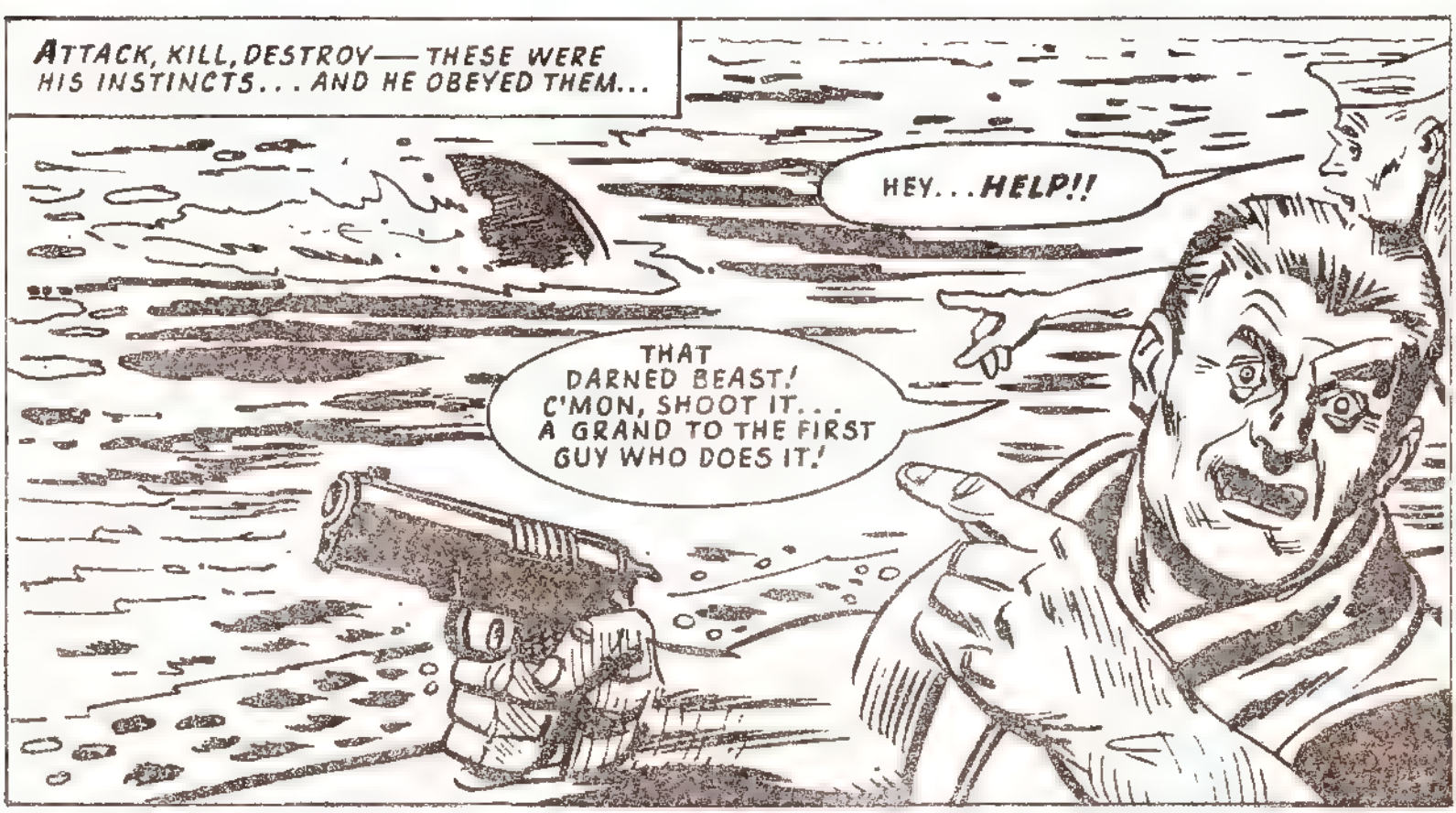
THE LAUNCH SLIPPED INTO THE NIGHT.
THE JACKPOT, BERNARD! I'VE GOT ALL THE CARDS FOR A REAL KILLING! YOU'RE OUTA THE WAY... BUT THAT AIN'T ALL...
ARE YOU MAD, M'SIEUR? WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN BY ALL THIS?
THE SEA-HUNTER FROWNED, HIS NERVES TIGHTENED...
IN ABOUT AN HOUR THAT OIL-RIG'LL GO SKY-HIGH! I PLANTED A LITTLE SURPRISE. THEY WON'T BE WORKIN' FOR QUITE A TIME!
WHY—WHY SHOULD YOU WANT TO STOP THEM?

BECAUSE I WANT THE OPTION TO DRILL! THERE'S A FORTUNE UNDER THE SEA! IT'S GONNA BE MINE WHEN THEY FALL DOWN ON THE CONTRACT! IT'S WORKED LIKE A DREAM...


THE AMERICAN LAUGHED TRIUMPHANTLY..
I'VE MADE IT! THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT THE SHARK IN — THAT SURE WORRIED 'EM! WHEN THE RIG BLOWS UP THAT'LL BE THE END OF 'EM... AND NOBODY CAN STOP ME!

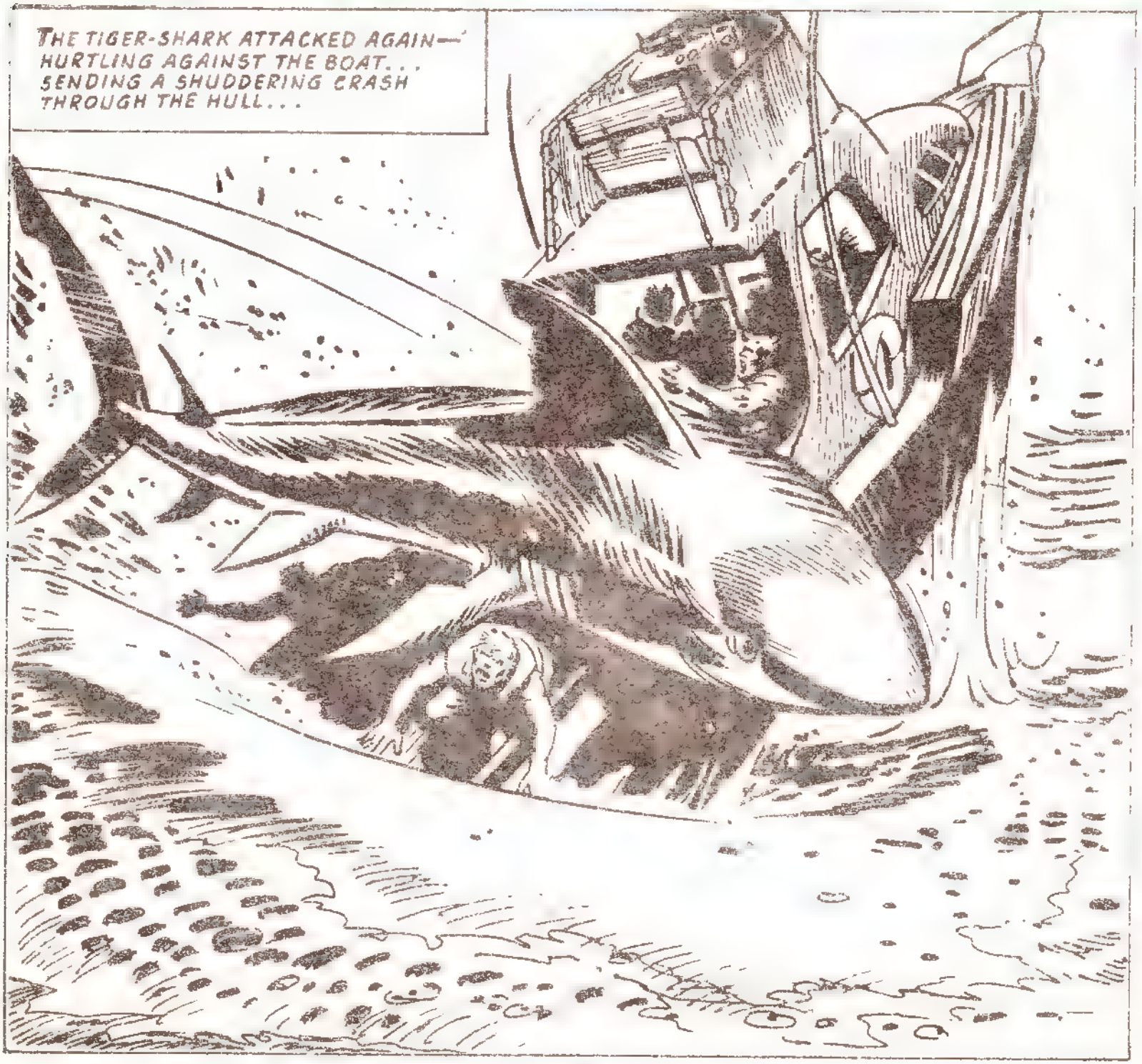

DEEP IN THE MYSTERIOUS DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN A HUGE FORM STIRRED...

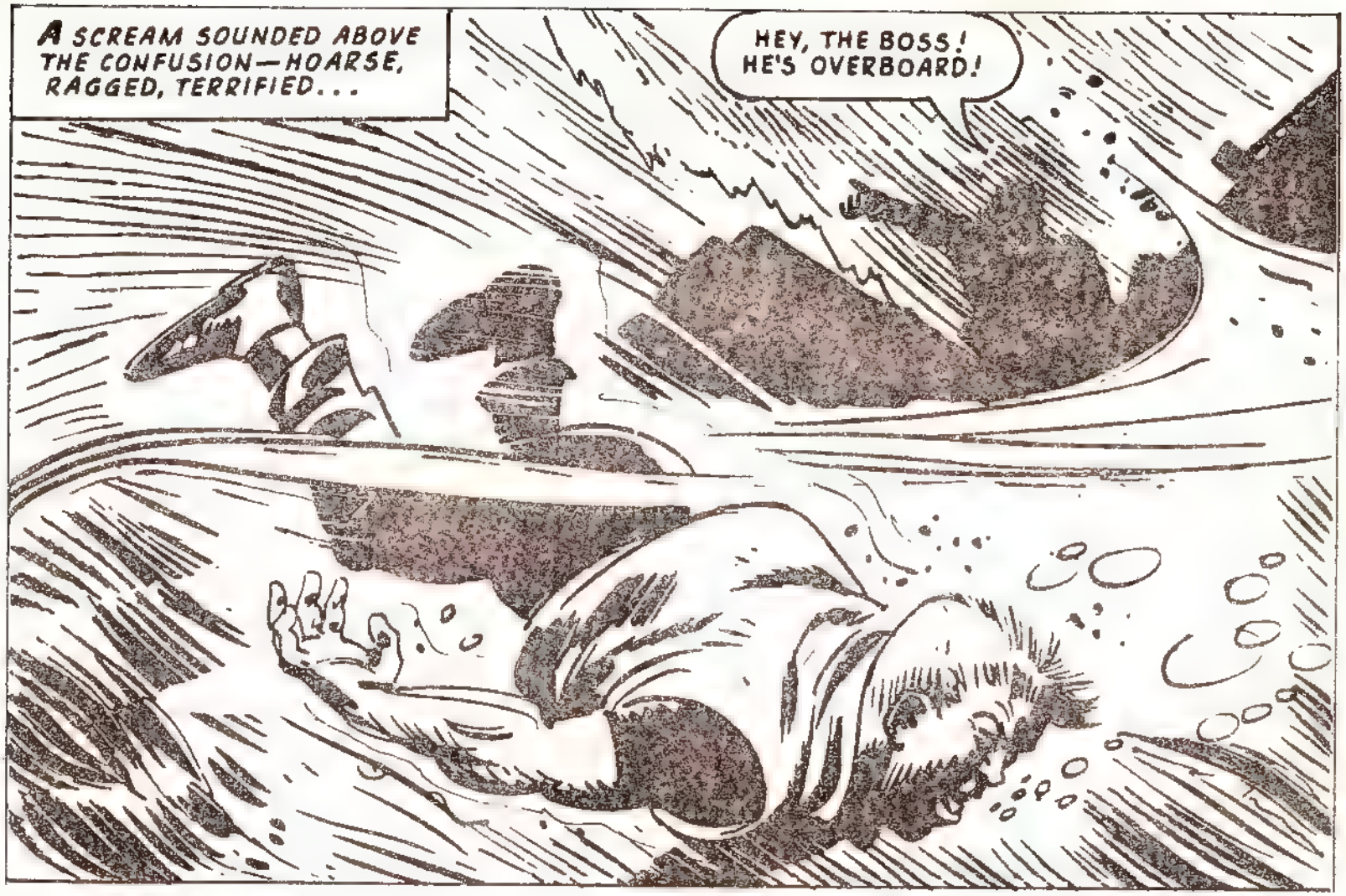

SCARBACK ROSE. HE SENSED AN ENEMY— HE SAW THE FIGURE AND REMEMBERED. HATRED AND ANGER FLARED IN HIS MIND. HIS GREAT BLACK FIN STIFFENED...


ATTACK, KILL, DESTROY— THESE WERE HIS INSTINCTS... AND HE OBEYED THEM...
HEY... HELP!!
THAT DARNED BEAST! C'MON, SHOOT IT... A GRAND TO THE FIRST GUY WHO DOES IT!

BUT TERROR FROZE THE CREW... THEY COULD ONLY STARE AT THE GREAT BLACK BODY LEAPING FROM THE WATER...

THIS IS OUR MOMENT, TOD! THEY HAVE EYES ONLY FOR SCARBACK!
RIGHT, UNCLE— IF WE COULD GRAB A GUN...


THE TIGER-SHARK ATTACKED AGAIN— HURTLING AGAINST THE BOAT... SENDING A SHUDDERING CRASH THROUGH THE HULL...

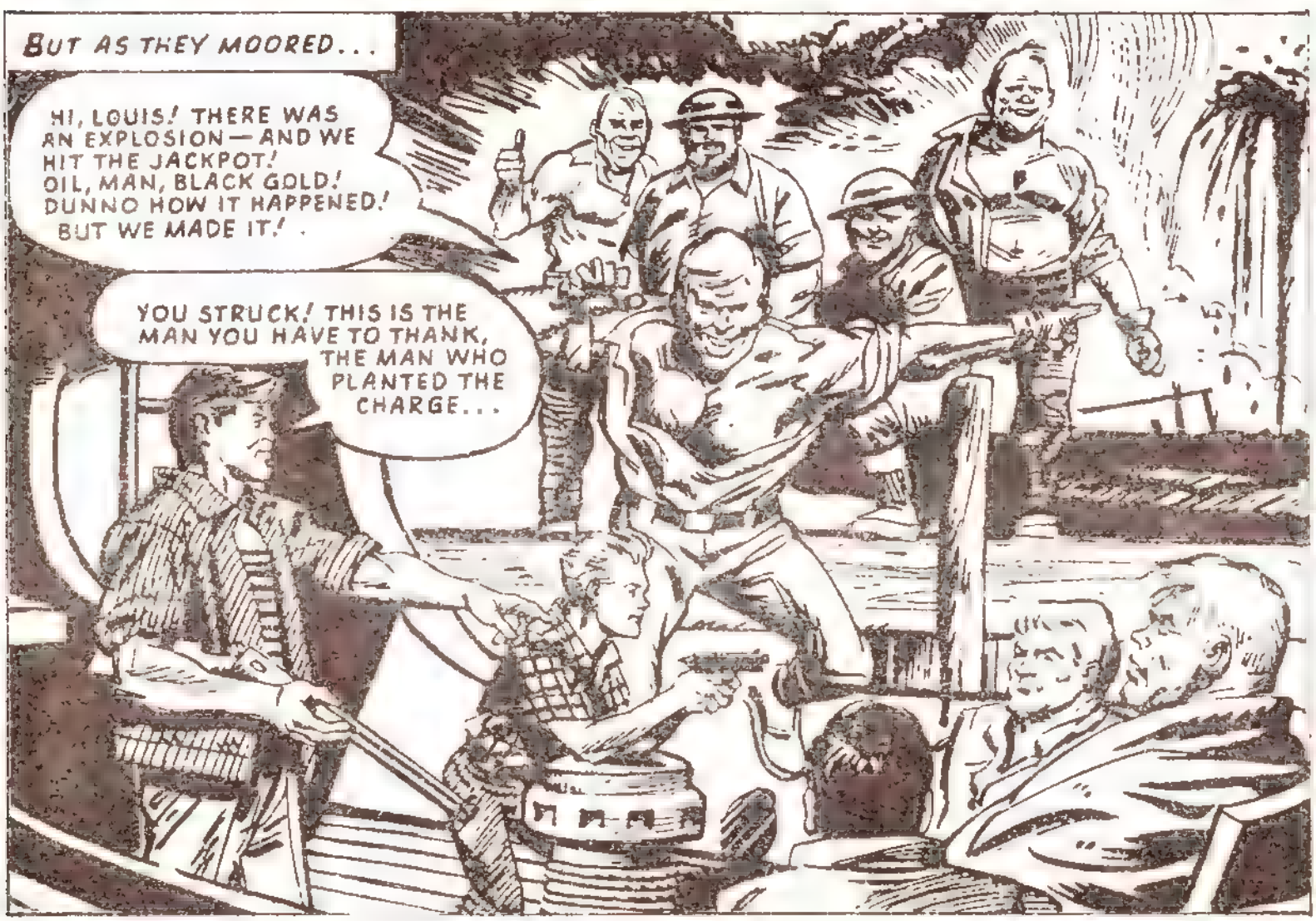

A SCREAM SOUNDED ABOVE THE CONFUSION—HOARSE, RAGGED, TERRIFIED...
HEY, THE BOSS! HE'S OVERBOARD!

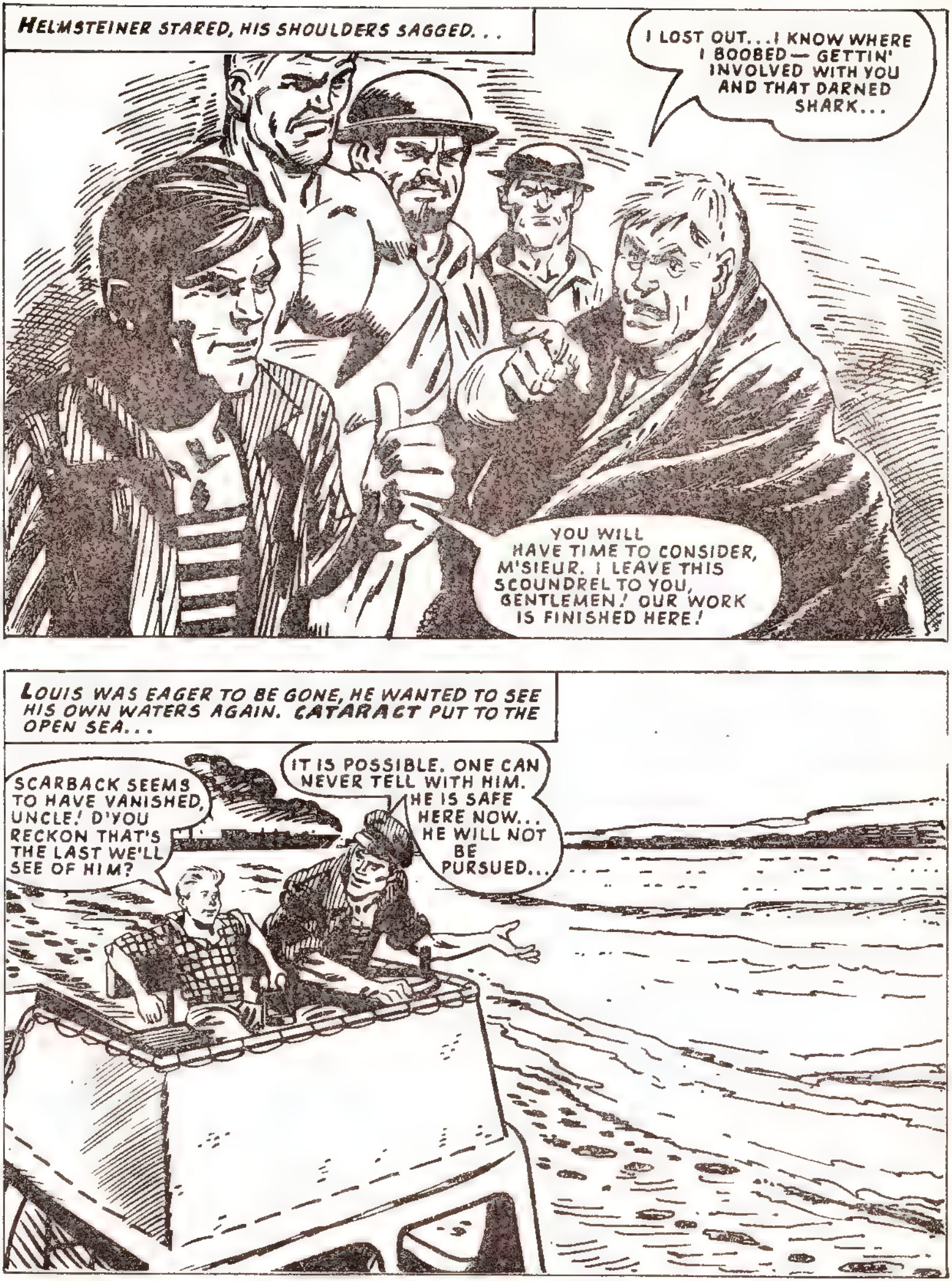
ARTHUR P. HELMSTEINER DISAPPEARED INTO THE SEA...INTO SCARBACK'S OWN ELEMENT...
HELP...HELP!!! FOR PITY'S SAKE!

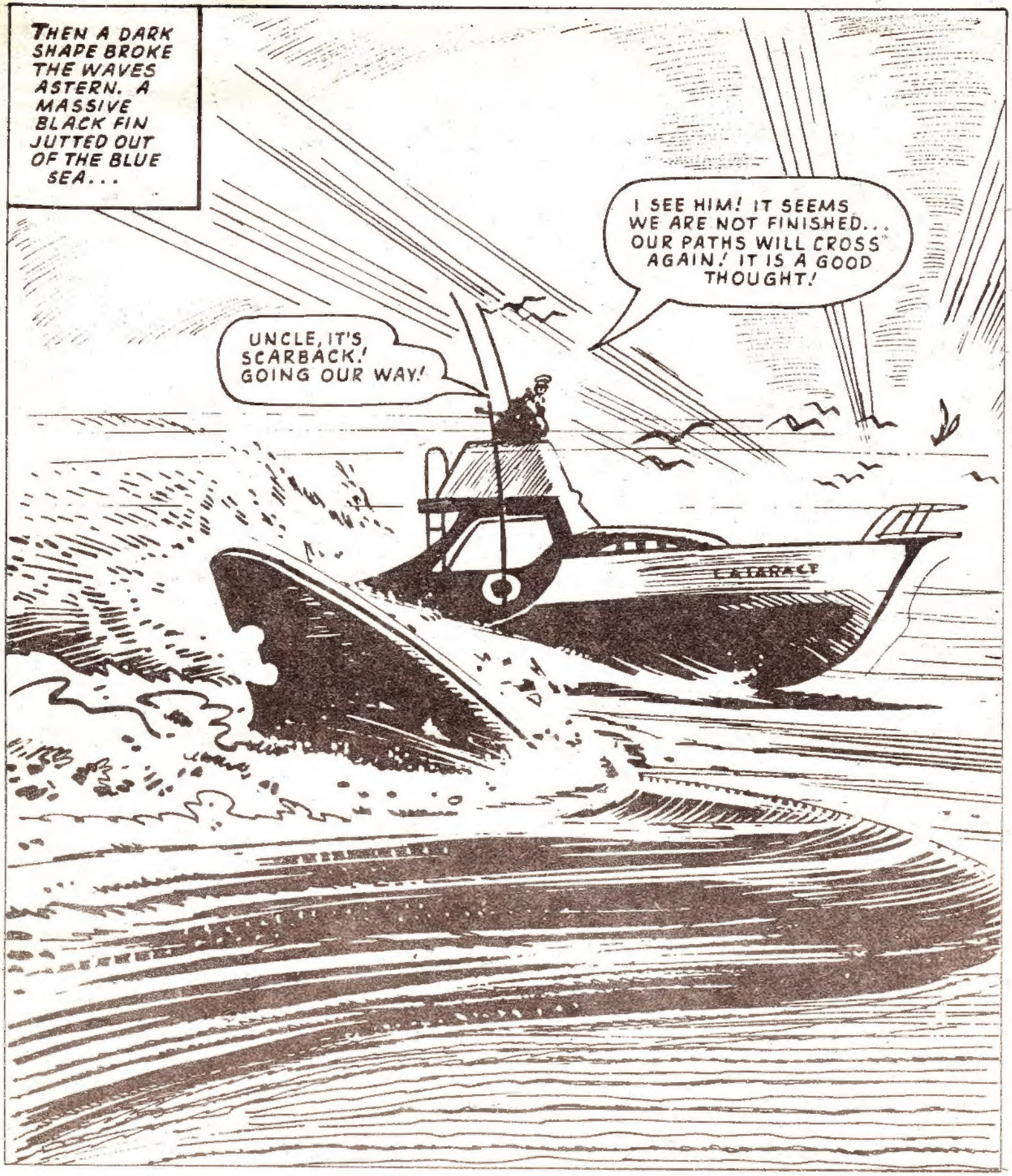
LOUIS ACTED INSTINCTIVELY— LIKE THE SHARK HE OBEYED THE LAWS OF HIS NATURE...
HEY, WHAT THE..?
IF YOU WILL NOT SAVE YOUR MASTER SOMEBODY MUST!
HELP, HELP! I'LL DO ANYTHING... PAY ANYTHING... JUST HELP ME! PLEASE!
COURAGE!
LOUIS GRABBED HELMSTEINER AND PUSHED FOR THE BOAT...
YOU'LL GET ANYTHIN' YOU WANT, BERNARD, IF YOU GET ME OUT OF THIS HOLE. I SWEAR IT...
SILENCE! SAVE YOUR BREATH AND SAY YOUR PRAYERS!
THE SHARK'S JAWS SNAPPED AS THEY WERE HAULED ABOARD.
OKAY, BOSS— WE GOT YOU... YOU'RE SAFE!
WHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE, TOO CLOSE...

HELMSTEINER RECOVERED QUICKLY. HE GRINNED TRIUMPHANTLY...
GRAB HIM, BOYS! YOU'RE A MUG, BERNARD! YOU SHOULDN'T EVER GIVE A SMART OPERATOR LIKE ME A SECOND CHANCE...
THAT I AM BEGINNING TO LEARN, M'SIEUR...
BUT TOD MASSEY HAD ALREADY LEARNED THE LESSON... HE HAD SEIZED HIS CHANCE...
JUST STAY PUT! HERE, UNCLE...
GOOD WORK, TOD! NOW, SET COURSE FOR THE OIL-RIG! FULL SPEED!
HELMSTEINER'S ANSWER WAS LOST IN A SUDDEN ROAR. A SHEET OF ORANGE AND BLACK FLAME SHOT INTO THE DAWN SKY...
WATCH THEM, TOD! THEY WILL STILL HAVE TO ANSWER FOR THIS!

LOUIS FELT HIS HOPES SINK. THEY WERE TOO LATE...
FEELIN' PRETTY SICK, BERNARD? YOU PICKED THE WRONG SIDE—SHOULD'VE STUCK WITH ME!


BUT AS THEY MOORED...
HI, LOUIS! THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION—AND WE HIT THE JACKPOT! OIL, MAN, BLACK GOLD! DUNNO HOW IT HAPPENED! BUT WE MADE IT!
YOU STRUCK! THIS IS THE MAN YOU HAVE TO THANK, THE MAN WHO PLANTED THE CHARGE...


HELMSTEINER STARED, HIS SHOULDERS SAGGED. . .
I LOST OUT. . . I KNOW WHERE I BOOBED — GETTIN' INVOLVED WITH YOU AND THAT DARNED SHARK. . .
YOU WILL HAVE TIME TO CONSIDER, M'SIEUR. I LEAVE THIS SCOUNDREL TO YOU, GENTLEMEN! OUR WORK IS FINISHED HERE!
LOUIS WAS EAGER TO BE GONE, HE WANTED TO SEE HIS OWN WATERS AGAIN. CATARACT PUT TO THE OPEN SEA. . .
SCARBACK SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED, UNCLE! D'YOU RECKON THAT'S THE LAST WE'LL SEE OF HIM?
IT IS POSSIBLE. ONE CAN NEVER TELL WITH HIM. HE IS SAFE HERE NOW. . . HE WILL NOT BE PURSUED. . .


THEN A DARK SHAPE BROKE THE WAVES ASTERN. A MASSIVE BLACK FIN JUTTED OUT OF THE BLUE SEA...
UNCLE, IT'S SCARBACK! GOING OUR WAY!
I SEE HIM! IT SEEMS WE ARE NOT FINISHED... OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN! IT IS A GOOD THOUGHT!

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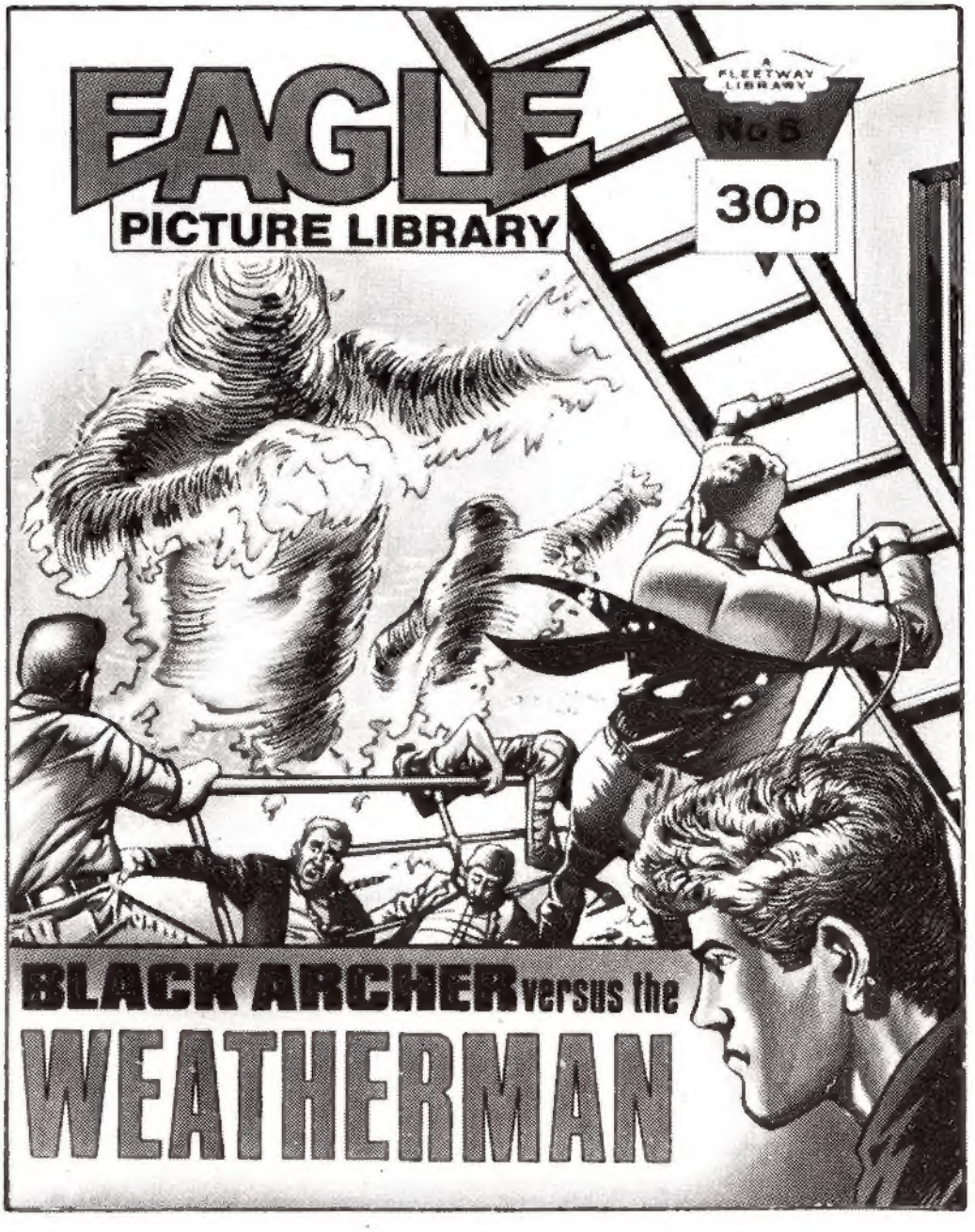

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